

BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

NOVEMBER, 1996

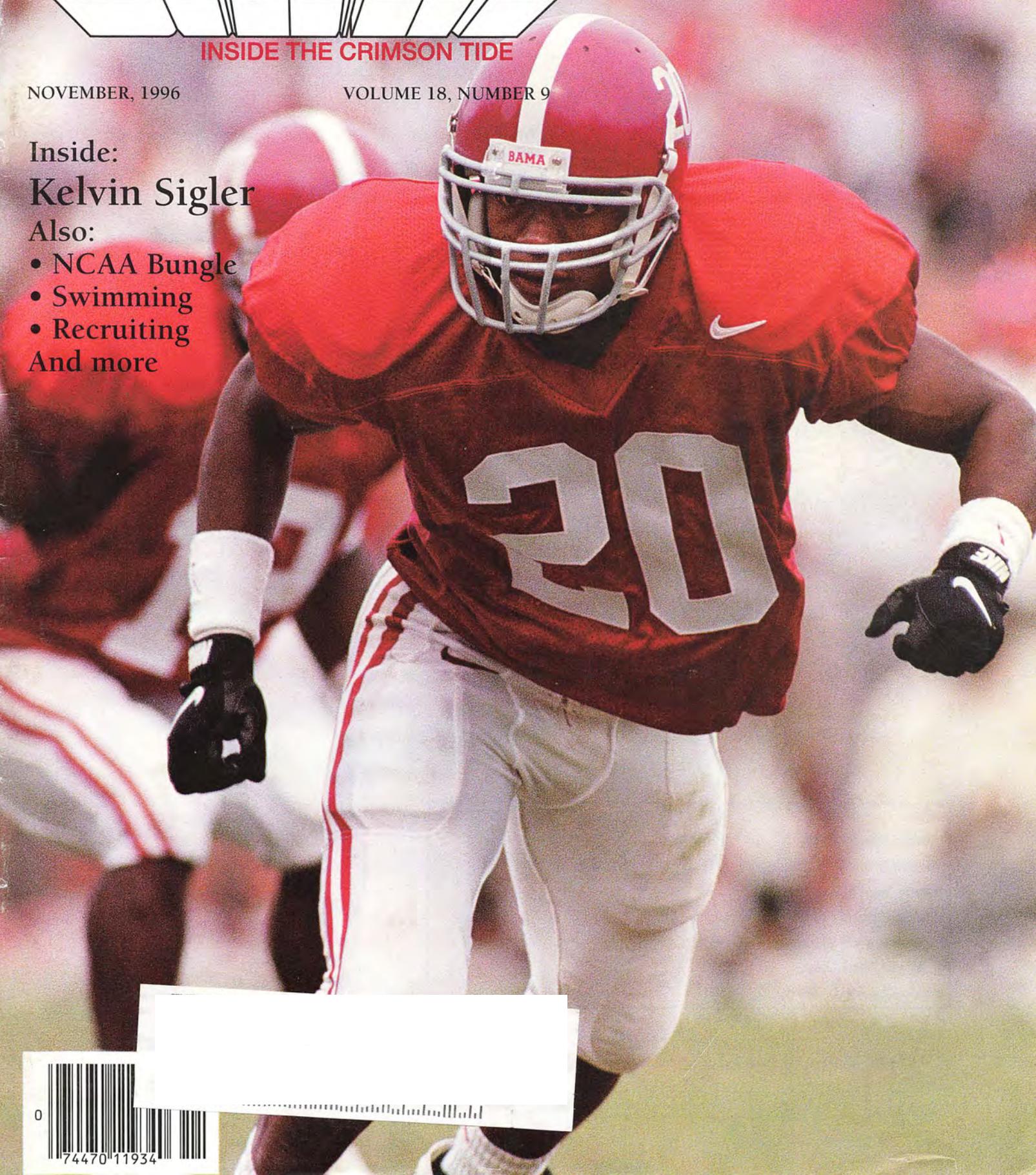
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 9

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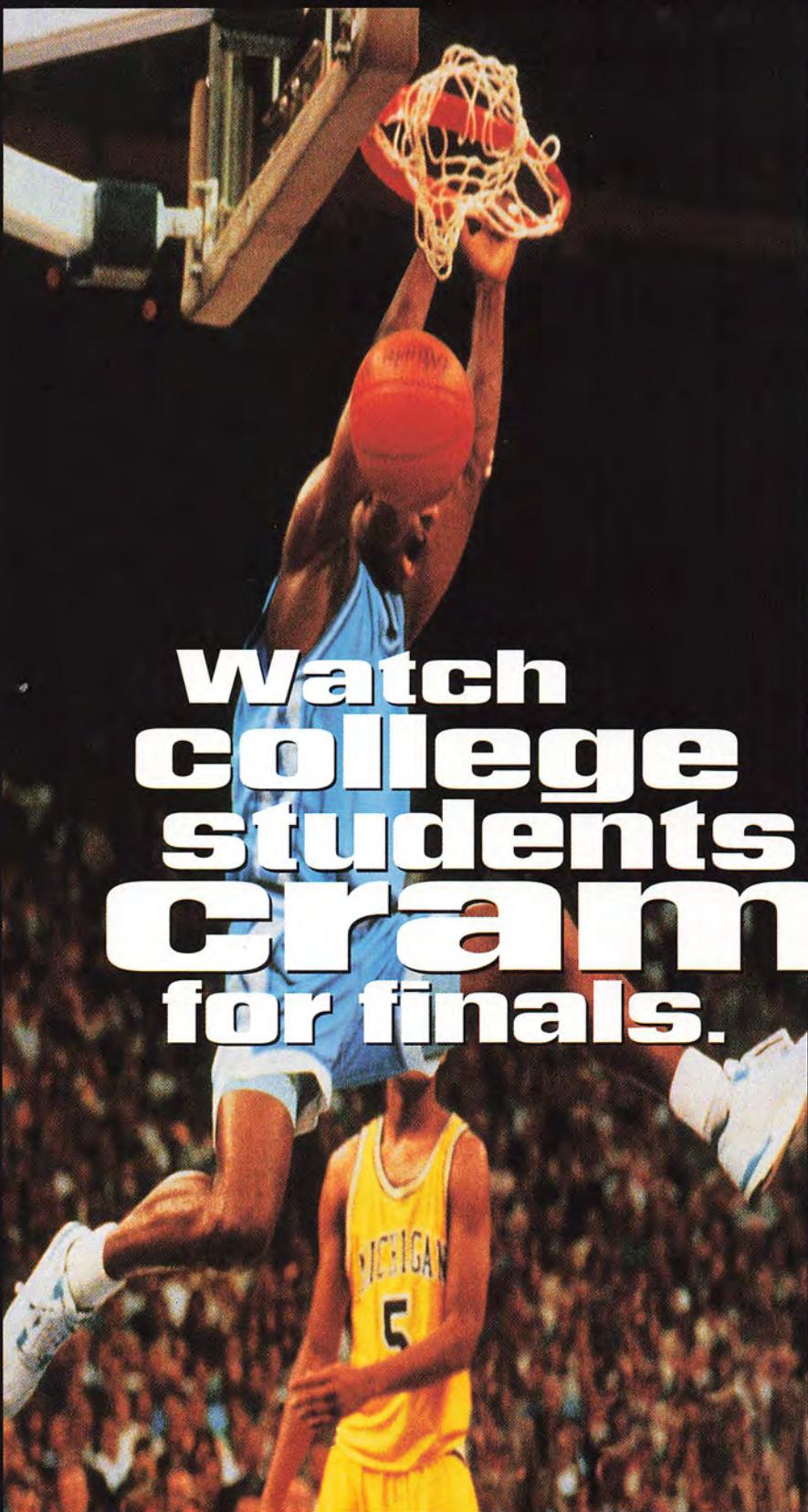
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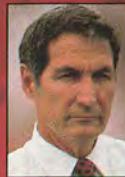
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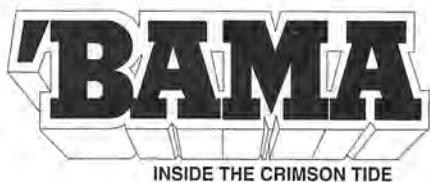
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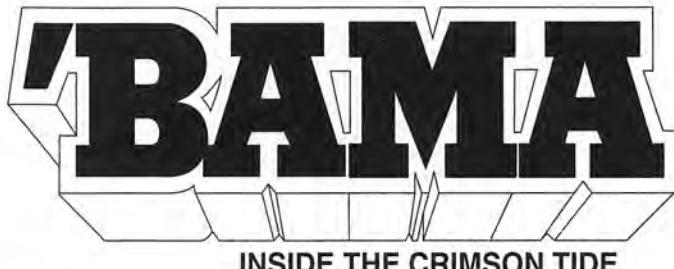
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NOVEMBER, 1996

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 9

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Barry Fikes Photo



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Jones Gets Apology: NCAA Admits To Bungling Case

The NCAA Committee on Infractions, which hammered Alabama's football program with extraordinary penalties a little over a year ago, was back with hat and checkbook in hand as it apologized for its errors. Former Faculty Chairman of Athletics Tom Jones was the primary beneficiary as the harm done to the football program can't be undone.

by Kirk McNair

Montoya Madden: He Followed Bloodline To Bama

Hard-running sophomore Montoya Madden has become an Alabama crowd favorite, and he is a favorite of Alabama coaches, too. He's part of a successful connection Alabama has had from Hazlewood High School in Town Creek.

by Donald F. Staffo



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Kelvin Sigler: He Has Special Kind Of Incentive

Defensive back Kelvin Sigler saw only limited action as a freshman, has been a big part of Alabama defense this year as a sophomore, but is particularly important for the future.

by Kirk McNair

Brian Cunningham: He's Facing Yet Another Challenge

It has been a tough road for sophomore place-kicker Brian Cunningham and now he's facing another challenge to be the field goal kicker Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings wants to be able to depend on.

by Jeff Janes



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Swimming & Diving Outlook: Tide Has Some Top Performers

Coach Chuck Horton has a handful of proven athletes on his women's team, while the men's team will have to count to great extent on the performances of newcomers.

by Andrew Varble III

Prep Prospects: A Look At In-State Skill Players

Alabama's 1997 recruiting class is expected to include a number of skill position players. Here are some of the top-rated back and wide receiver prospects in Alabama.

by Kirk McNair



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BAMA SCORECARD

BYU Buyout

When Brigham Young University announced its most ambitious non-conference schedule ever, the 1998 slate that features Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Arizona State in Provo and Washington in Seattle as its first three games of the year, Athletics Director Rondo Fehlberg pointed out some shuffling the Cougars had to make to get Bama on the schedule.

An NCAA provision allows teams that play Hawaii in Hawaii to have a 12th game. BYU plays Hawaii every year as a conference game, but had the Rainbows scheduled in Provo in 1998. BYU was able to switch that game to a road game, enabling Alabama to be added as a 12th game for BYU.

Fehlberg said that Alabama and BYU had been scheduled for a home-and-home, a schedule made by former Tide Athletics Director Steve Sloan, but that when the Southeastern Conference went to an eight-game schedule, Alabama had to get out of that series. "Alabama had to buy out of that series," Fehlberg said. "We allowed them to do that." He said that Glen Tuckett, former BYU athletics director who was serving as interim athletics director at Alabama between the resignation of Hootie Ingram and the appointment of Bob Bockrath, had to fill a vacancy in 1998 and initiated the negotiations that put the Cougars and Tide together to open the 1998 season.

Butkus Semifinalist

Alabama's sports information office came up with a clever promotion for Dwayne Rudd, who is one of 11 semifinalists for the Butkus Award, given to the nation's top linebacker as determined by a 25-member media panel for the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando, Florida. A flyer proclaims, "Dwayne Rudd: Alabama's pain in the Butkus for offenses!"

The original list of 68 nominees for the award was trimmed to 11 on October 17. Rudd is one of four juniors (along with five seniors and one sophomore) in the semifinals. The three finalists will be announced November 14 and the winner will be announced December 14 in Orlando. Hall of Famer Dick Butkus will make the presentation.

Historic Difference

When this season started, Florida Head Football Coach Steve Spurrier had the best record of any Southeastern Conference coach in the 1990s, a mark of 61-13-1 in the six years he had been head man for the Gators. Gene Stallings, who reported to Alabama the same year as Spurrier did to Florida, was one win be-

hind Spurrier with a record of 60-13-1. So it was something of a surprise to read that Spurrier was on track to getting the most coaching wins of any man in Florida history this season. In nine years (1960-69) Ray Graves won 70 games as head coach at Florida.

So where is Stallings on the Alabama list? Stallings moved past Hall of Fame member Wallace Wade (1923-30, 61-13-3) with his second victory this season. He is now third on the Alabama winning list for head football coaches, trailing two other Hall of Famers, Paul Bryant (232-46-9 from 1958 through 1982) and Frank Thomas (115-24-7, 1931-46).

Incidentally, Bryant is also the winningest coach in Kentucky football history. From 1946-53 he had a record of 60-23-5 for the Wildcats.

Basketball Walk-Ons

It appears that two newcomers have made the Alabama men's basketball squad this year. DeJuan Shambley, 5-11, is a point guard who played at Tuscaloosa Central and who has been in junior college. The Tide also has a true freshman guard working, wing player Nick Wilmott of Foley.

Surgery For Croyle

Alabama freshman women's basketball player Reagan Croyle will have a sympathetic ear as she recovers from knee surgery. Her father, John, an outstanding defensive end for the Crimson Tide in the early 1970s, had knee surgery during his Bama career.

Reagan, a 6-1 guard, injured her left knee in the first week of practice for Coach Rick Moody's team. She underwent surgery by Dr. Larry Lemak at HealthSouth in Birmingham the following week. As a sophomore at Westbrook Christian School in Gadsden she had under gone surgery on her right knee.

Croyle will join fellow signee LaToya Caudle as a medical redshirt this year. Caudle, who transferred from Northwest Shoals, had knee surgery last spring and is not expected to play this year.

Tough Competition

One of the most famous names in women's basketball will make a playing appearance in Tuscaloosa's Coleman Coliseum this year. Nancy Lieberman-Cline, one of the first "big names" in women's basketball during her career at Old Dominion 16 years ago, is on the roster of the 1996 Athletes In Action team that will meet Bama in an exhibition game at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 21.

Lieberman-Cline has never played in Coleman Coliseum, but has been there

several times as a television commentator for women's basketball games.

Guaranteed Tickets

Athletics Director Bob Bockrath is so sure fans will enjoy Coach Rick Moody's Alabama women's basketball team that he is offering a money-back guarantee for season ticket buyers. Alabama is going to charge for women's basketball games this year, a first for the program. Bockrath noted that Bama has a quality program, one that some are predicting to win the national championship this year, and said that a value needed to be placed on that product. The value is \$5 per ticket for 11 home games, or \$55 per season ticket. (Youth tickets on a game basis only for those under 18 are \$2.) Men's basketball and football season ticket holders and women's booster club members will receive ticket information. Others may request information by calling the Athletics Ticket Office at (205) 348-6111. Bockrath said that anyone who is not satisfied with the product may apply for a refund at the conclusion of the season.

Women In The Pros

Former Tide All-America Niesa Johnson is playing for one of the most talent-loaded teams in the infant American Basketball League, a professional women's basketball conference, and Johnson is a starter for the Atlanta Glory. After five games she was averaging nine points and 5.7 assists per game, and had dished out nine assists in a game at Colorado.

Meanwhile, former Tide Leslie Claybrook became disenchanted with playing in a women's professional league in Europe. After just three weeks with a team representing Warsaw, Poland, it was learned there was a slight problem, that the team wouldn't be able to meet its payroll.

Claybrook, a native of Luverne, then accepted a job as assistant women's basketball coach at Troy State University. One of her fellow assistants is her former Tide teammate Sharonna Alexander.

Gambril Retires

A few members of Alabama's athletics department have a national reputation. For the past 24 years one member of the Crimson Tide staff has had an international reputation. Don Gambril will continue to have his reputation, but he will not keep office hours in the athletics department after December 31. He has announced his retirement after 38 years in college athletics.

Gambril came to Alabama in 1972 to build the Crimson Tide swimming program, and he made Alabama a national

power. He was Bama's head men's swimming coach for 17 years and head women's coach for the last 10 years of his career before taking on the post of associate athletics director for Olympic Sports (everything except football, men's basketball and gymnastics) at the end of the 1990 season.

His list of achievements is extraordinary, and includes being a four-time assistant for the United States Olympic Team and head coach of the highly-successful 1984 squad. He coached 18 United States national teams. He has coached numerous national champions and American and World record-holders and countless all-conference and All-America performers.

Gambril has received virtually every award in the sport of swimming, including induction into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. He has been a national coach of the year.

Gambril won't be idle in retirement. He has maintained an active schedule as a speaker and clinic director world-wide.

Baseball Recruiting

The latest issue of *Collegiate Baseball* ranks Alabama's incoming class as seventh best in the nation. The publication said, "The Crimson Tide may have landed the best junior college recruiting class in the nation this year." Bama signed 12 new players, nine from the junior college ranks.

Fall Baseball

Alabama has finished fall baseball practice. The Tide will resume work in January and open play February 14. Tide Head Coach Jim Wells saw progress in the four-week fall practice period. "We lost a lot of players off last year's team, but we have replaced them with some capable players. I think we have had some good workouts."

Following fall drills, Alabama players continued the tradition of dividing themselves into two teams and playing a World Series without benefit of coaches.

Baseball Tickets

Last year Alabama's baseball team turned in a 50-win season, won the Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship, hosted and won an NCAA Regional and advanced to the College World Series.

This year the Tide will play 36 home games. Among the visitors to Sewell-Thomas Stadium will be defending national champion LSU. Because of past scheduling quirks by the SEC, this will be LSU's first trip to Tuscaloosa since 1994.

Last year's season ticket holders will receive renewal notices in the next few months. Those wishing to receive information on tickets may write the Athletics Ticket Office, P. O. Box 870323, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Fast Start For Fast Pitch

Although the games didn't count, the newest Alabama sport, women's fast pitch softball, got off to a good start with a pair of exhibition tournament championships during fall practice. The first-year team of Coach Kalum Haack posted a 9-1 record in hosting two tournaments. The squad of 12 scholarshipped players and a handful of walk-ons will begin play February 14 in Dallas. Bama will play its home games this spring at Tuscaloosa's Muny Sokol Park.

NCAA Woman Of The Year

Each year the NCAA names a Woman of the Year for her combination of academic excellence, community service and athletic achievement. One of the 10 finalists for the award was former Tide swimmer Amy DeVasher, an All-America and Academic All-America who is now in medical school. The finalists were selected by an NCAA committee from 51 state nominees.

This year's winner was Billie Winsett-Fletcher, star player for Nebraska's 1995 national champion volleyball team.

Marketeer Added

Jeremy Lull has been hired by the athletics department as its director of Athletic Marketing and Trademark Licensing. The Huntsville native worked as an intern in the marketing and promotions area last year and filled in as interim director when Wade Howell left last April.

Higginbotham To Coach Stars

Former Alabama football player Robert Higginbotham, veteran head coach at Shades Valley High School in Birmingham, has been named as head coach for the Alabama team for the 1997 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Football Classic in Mobile. Higginbotham was the winning head coach in the 1988 inaugural game. The remainder of the staff will be named after the current football season.

Alumni Rallies

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the Alabama National Alumni Association will host a Cajun tailgate party and pep rally at the LSU Assembly beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday, November 9, prior to kickoff of the Alabama-LSU game. Former Alabama players will be on hand to sign autographs and the cheerleaders and members of the Million Dollar Band. Cost is \$10 per person. For reservations contact Larry Applewhite at (504) 293-0405.

November will also include a number of pep rallies prior to the Auburn game on November 23, in Autauga County November 18, Etowah County and Mobile County November 19, Madison County and Lauderdale County November 21, and Jefferson County November 22. The national association and the Jefferson County association will host the November 22 pep rally beginning at 7 p.m. at Five Points South in Birmingham.

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Jones Gets Apology:

NCAA Admits To Bungling Case

by Kirk McNair

Harm to The University
by NCAA incompetence
can never be undone

The great American justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., once admonished, "This is not a court of justice, young man, it is a court of law." One can't help but wonder if students of Professor David Swank at Oklahoma University's law school learn either, based on the bungling of Swank's NCAA Infractions Committee regarding Alabama.

It was Swank's humiliating duty to issue a weasel-worded apology to Alabama Law Professor and former Faculty Chairman of Athletics Dr. Tom Jones for the incompetent performance of that committee last year. Fortunately for Dr. Jones, the clearing of his name is to be accompanied by a sizeable financial settlement (perhaps approaching \$1 million) from the NCAA. Unfortunately, the penalties wrongfully imposed against Alabama's football program because of Swank's sub-standard performance cannot be recovered. Alabama cannot go back and add 24 scholarshipped football players. Those scholarships were taken away by Swank's committee. Alabama players who earned the right to a bowl game last year cannot go back and have that holiday trip and game. Swank's committee made Alabama, the nation's most tradition-rich bowl team, ineligible for a bowl game last year. And Alabama still has nine forfeits on its record for the 1993 season, eight games won and one tied on the field, but taken away by Swank's committee.

While Jones' name has been officially cleared, who can say what pain he endured after Swank's venomous denouncement of him, the judgment that Jones had been guilty of unethical conduct? And what about Alabama's name, formerly without blemish? Financially, the loss to The University was huge, attorney fees of a quarter million dollars, loss of Southeastern Conference bowl revenue sharing of another \$700,000 or so. And there was an extraordinary amount of man-hours devoted to the long investigation and appeal. Ironically, even The University will be a participant in the payoff to Jones, because the NCAA will merely take it from its members, of which Alabama is one.

There is also the personal toll. Jones has had a measure of retribution, but others, no-



Dr. Tom Jones

tably former Athletics Director Hootie Ingram, are now out of college athletics because Swank's committee botched its duty.

Alabama's first transgression of NCAA rules was so noteworthy that it was the cover story in *Sports Illustrated* in 1995, "Bama Busted" superimposed over a photograph of Coach Gene Stallings. The magazine then spoke of Alabama's arrogance in planning an appeal.

Alabama did appeal and received unprecedented relief from another NCAA committee, the Infractions Appeals Committee. However, that body, almost certainly in order to protect its fellow NCAA committeemen, took the easy way out, vacating the charge against Jones on the basis of procedural error. That way innocence or guilt was not considered, leaving the impression Jones and The University got off on a technicality. That wasn't good enough.

Part of the strategy to clear Jones' name came in the form of some 600 letters, many from former law students, attesting to Jones' character and integrity. One can imagine the bemused acceptance by the smug bureaucrats in Kansas City of those letters from the country lawyers.

But another letter from Alabama lawyers, from the firm of Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton in Birmingham, got their attention. That was a letter that pointed out that the NCAA Committee on Infractions never had sought or found evidence against Jones. The attorneys produced the affidavit that proved

Jones' innocence and added a "by the way," notice of a claim of defamation. To avoid a disastrous lawsuit, the NCAA moved with uncharacteristic speed to settle out of court and issue a public apology.

Attorneys for the firm, including Ronnie Noojin (who, tragically, died of cancer in his early 50s before the conclusion), Leon Ashford, Mike Ermert and Bruce McKee worked with University attorneys Stan Murphy and Glenn Powell in gaining a measure of justice for Alabama and Jones.

In his apology, Swank spoke of "new evidence." There was no new evidence, only evidence Swank's committee (and the NCAA Enforcement Staff) hadn't bothered to seek. Perhaps there wasn't enough time in the two-and-a-half year investigation to interview Jones or ask him to explain any of his written or oral comments relative to the NCAA investigations.

Dr. E. Culpepper Clark, who served as executive assistant to former President Roger Sayers, who sought the appeal, said following the NCAA apology, "Although the apology is accepted, it is fair to say that the damage caused by the August 2, 1995, Infractions Report can never be undone. The false charge of unethical conduct undermined the credibility of The University and its officials with consequences that cannot now be reversed."

He added, "President Sayers' determination to know and to publish the truth of this case has at last borne results."

Swank said, "We thought we were following procedure." Pity the Oklahoma University law students who are subject to knowing less about the Constitution than the average high school student in Alabama who has had a course in civics. Swank thought membership in the NCAA included suspension of the Bill of Rights? He thought it was proper procedure to accuse, convict and sentence someone in one fell swoop?

Alabama was not completely innocent. Antonio Langham had signed with an agent, or would-be agent, and then played in 11 football games for Alabama in the fall of 1993. However, the NCAA acknowledged several times that Alabama did not willfully violate rules and that University officials cooperated fully in the investigation. The probe also came up with a very lame charge against Alabama, that former defensive back Gene Jelks had received an improper loan and that Alabama athletics officials had not properly documented it.

Alabama and the Investigative Staff tried to work out a Summary Disposition result to

the case. Based on NCAA precedent, Alabama suggested the loss of scholarships in 1995. Alabama had intended to sign 18 players that year, agreed to sign only 14.

Swank's committee did not accept that. Adding the charge against Jones, which Swank repeatedly referred to as the most serious issue of the case as he fulminated in August, 1995, the Infractions Committee hit Bama with extraordinarily harsh penalties: three years probation, loss of a total of 33 scholarships, a bowl ban in 1995, and forfeiture of eight victories and one tie in the 1993 season. Alabama appealed the charge against Jones and the third year of probation, loss of scholarships in 1997, and the bowl ban. All but the bowl ban were granted with the note that the penalties imposed by Swank's committee were "excessive and inappropriate." The Infractions Appeals Committee also pointed out that Alabama's record of compliance, its cooperation, and its appropriate corrective action differentiated The University from regular NCAA transgressors.

Swank, blustery in August of 1995, stammered his way through the apology, then avoided pointed questions about the performance of his committee. His memory failed him when trying to recall what part

the charge against Jones played in Alabama's penalties. And he certainly couldn't conceive of any retribution due The University because of his committee's ineptness.

The six-paragraph apology read by Swank was mostly drivel, but got to the heart of the matter in the fourth and final paragraphs:

"The Committee on Infractions now finds that Professor Jones did not knowingly provide incomplete or otherwise false and misleading information to the NCAA eligibility appeals staff and did not intentionally or willfully violate the NCAA Constitution or bylaws in this case."

And, "The Committee on Infractions acknowledges its error in this case in making its finding without adequate specific prior notice of the charge of unethical conduct by Professor Jones. The Committee on Infractions recognizes that a charge of unethical conduct is a very serious allegation and it deeply regrets the public embarrassment and humiliation its finding in this case has caused Professor Jones and The University of Alabama."

"We're not quite perfect," Swank said. Perfect? The only way a form of that word could be used in describing the performance of Swank's committee would be as an adjective, as in "perfectly incompetent."



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He Followed Bloodline To Bama

by Donald F. Staffo

Halfback/fullback still has many goals to achieve

Montoya Madden is among the latest in the long line of football players who have followed the gridiron pipeline from Town Creek to Tuscaloosa. Bama defensive ends Chris Hood and Steve Harris were prep teammates with Madden and members of the 1994 Crimson Tide recruiting class. Before them, the Hazlewood High School–University of Alabama connection included Kerry Goode, Chris Goode, Pierre Goode, Antonio Langham, and Tarrant Lynch.

Actually, it's more a bloodline than a pipeline. "I'm kin to every last one of them," Madden said. "We're all related."

Those that preceded the current Crimson Tide trio all made noteworthy contributions to the Alabama football program. Madden, who rushed for over 4,000 yards in high school, says he wants to do the same.

"I came here to help win the national championship," said Madden, who at 5-8 and 210 pounds is reminiscent of former Houston Oilers fullback Charlie Tolar, "the human bowling ball" of the old American Football League.

"I wanted to come down here and play a big part in the Alabama offense, to be one of the leading rushers, one of the hardest runners who's ever been here," Madden said.

A high school All-America and two-time 2-A all-state performer, Madden had the credentials to do that. The problem is that the Tide is currently stockpiled with top-of-the-line tailbacks. Sophomore Curtis Alexander, a 6-1, 202-pound junior from Memphis who beat out last year's starter Dennis Riddle, was rated the seventh-best running back in the country, the fourth-best in the South, named Gatorade Tennessee Player of the Year and a *SuperPrep* All-America.

The 6-0, 195-pound Riddle averaged 4.1 yards a carry, rushed for almost 1,000 yards and scored eight touchdowns in capably carrying the bulk of the Tide's running load during last year's 8-3 seasons. Only a junior and less heralded than his stablemates, Riddle, a local product out of Tuscaloosa Central, accounted for over 3,000 career yards in high school and was twice all-state.

Then there's Shaun Alexander (6-1, 205), who came to The Capstone with the biggest reputation of them all. A *Parade* and *USA Today* first-team All-America who was also Kentucky Player of the Year, he rushed for 6,657 yards and 110 touchdowns in what ranks among the best prep careers ever.

So, despite his own stellar accomplishments, Madden found himself the Tide's fourth-team tailback. With quality depth at the position, Madden was switched to fullback where he backed up starter Ed Scissum. When Curtis Alexander broke his wrist during Alabama's



Sophomore running back Montoya Madden has seen playing time at both halfback and fullback, but he really hasn't seen much playing time at either. Madden had the biggest day of the season against Ole Miss as he scored on a pair of five-yard touchdown runs against the Rebels in the Tide's 37-0 win.

Barry Fikes Photo

fourth game of the year against Arkansas, Madden was moved back to tailback.

In the 35-7 second-half rout of Kentucky, Madden, who played in every game as a redshirt freshman but only sparingly got to run with the ball, had seven carries and gained 54 yards. It was by far the most active he's been on offense since donning a Crimson Tide uniform. He also was the only Tide tailback who didn't fumble against the Wildcats. And as a member of the kick-off team, he sprinted down the field to cause a fumble, which led to Alabama's second touchdown of the second half that extended the Tide's lead to 21-7, breaking up what had been a close contest. Still, that's a big comedown for someone accustomed to touching the ball 30 times a game in high school.

"It felt good to get the ball seven times, but it would have felt a whole lot better if I got the ball 15 or 20 times. For me this is a big change from high school. You wouldn't believe how hard it is," said Madden, who added he is realistic. "I didn't expect to come here and play right away. I didn't get my hopes that high. I would have liked for it to happen, but it didn't. So I had to just take it as it came."

With Bama's running backs not only outstanding but young, barring other injuries a former prep star could become discouraged, even think of transferring. Madden said, "If I told you no,

I'd be lying. It has crossed my mind. But I like it here. I don't ever want to be known as a quitter. As long as I've got my education and I get my shot, everything is okay."

Although Madden ran for a 15-yard touchdown against Tennessee last year, he said that the Kentucky game was his best for the Tide so far. "Hopefully it will put a thought in the back of the coaches' minds to play me more, to give me the ball more," he said.

But the reality is, despite the talent on hand, if another blue chip back wants to come to Alabama, the Tide will take him. "We're always going to try to recruit better players every year," said Ivy Williams, who coaches Bama running backs. "That's never going to change."

And Madden knew that as soon as Curtis Alexander recovered from his injury, Madden would be shuttled back to fullback. Simply put, according to Williams, Curtis Alexander, the fastest of the group and the best breakaway threat "has got great speed," Riddle is "a slasher, very durable and he comes to practice and he comes to play in the games," and Shaun Alexander "makes plays."

Madden, who benches 350 pounds, squats 450 and runs a 4.5 forty, has his pluses too. "He's a hard runner, a determined runner. His mode is power," said Williams. "There's no shake and bake, no darting and dodging. He's physical and all-out power to the point of attack."

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Kelvin Sigler:

He Has Special Kind Of Incentive

by Kirk McNair

Soph defensive back has been a part of big plays

Kelvin Sigler has already been a part of two of the most memorable Alabama football plays this year, and he's not even a starter. Sigler, a 6-1, 180-pound defensive back, is a back-up safety who sees most of his playing time as a nickel back in passing situations and on special teams. It is in those roles he has been a part of significant plays.

While the first of those is memorable to those who witnessed it, it is only a blur to Sigler. He was a coverage man when Alabama opened the Vanderbilt game by kicking off. "I remember seeing number 41," Sigler said. "We collided. The rest I just know from looking at the tape." What Sigler saw on the tape was a violent collision with Vandy's 5-11, 213-pound Paul Morgan (a former prep teammate of Bama's Deshea Townsend and Dwayne Rudd at South Panola in Batesville, Mississippi). And piling into that collision was Tide defensive end Steve Harris, 6-0, 246. Sigler was knocked unconscious, taken to DCH Regional Medical Center, and then sidelined for the remainder of the game. "The guys told me that he (Morgan) made it to the sidelines, and then he collapsed, too," Sigler said.

Sigler was back in action the next week and made a spectacular play against Arkansas. Bama was clinging to a 10-0 fourth quarter lead and Arkansas faced third and seven from

its own 48. That's a passing situation and Sigler went into the game as the nickel back. "We were in a blitz situation," Sigler said. Arkansas had the perfect play called, a draw with Montgomery native Chrys Chukwuma going up the middle. It appeared Chukwuma was going for a touchdown, but he had to adjust his stride because of good work by Tide cornerback Deshea Townsend fending off a block. Just before Chukwuma got to the goalline, Sigler, who has 4.5-second speed in the 40-yard dash, caught up to Chukwuma and knocked the ball loose. It was recovered in the end zone by Bama's Fernando Bryant, ending the scoring threat.

"They teach us to swipe at the ball when we make the tackle," Sigler said. "Of course, the main thing I had to do was make the tackle, give us a few more yards. I didn't know the ball had come out until I got up off the ground and saw Fernando running back with it."

Later Bama Defensive Coordinator Mike Dubose would say, "Kelvin had a lot of incentive to make the play because he had gone the wrong way on the blitz."

Sigler doesn't lack for incentive. A tragedy guides him every day. When he was a senior at Shaw High School in Mobile, his mother, Gwendolyn Sigler, died. "Everything I do I think about making her proud of me," Sigler said. "I came to Alabama to accomplish something. I want to help us win the national championship and I want to graduate. I'm making good grades, and I know she would be proud of that."

Sigler is an excellent student who hopes one day to be a football coach.

Although he was an outstanding prep player

for Coach Tommy Davis, Sigler was not a difficult recruiting battle for Bama. "Alabama was always my favorite team and my mother's favorite team. Alabama was the only school I liked when I was young," he said. "I just made two visits, to Alabama and Mississippi State. I knew I was coming here."

In 1993 Sigler had been the only junior selected to the 6A all-state team, an honor he earned again as a senior. As a senior he had 106 tackles, two interceptions, three fumble recoveries (one for a touchdown) and broke up 11 passes. He also returned kicks, averaging 37 yards per return. He scored a touchdown in five consecutive games (all as a defensive player or special teams player), including returns of 84, 96, 72 and 84 yards. As a junior he had returned two kickoffs for touchdowns and also had 107 tackles and six interceptions.

Sigler has a younger brother ("My big brother," he said), eighth-grader Timothy Cooke, who already checks in at 6-3, 230. But, said Kelvin, "He's into baseball right now. I'm hoping to get him interested in football."

In 1995, Sigler was one of only five true freshmen to see action for Alabama, and he played in all 11 games. Although he was listed as a cornerback and practiced there during the week, his primary playing time his first year at Bama was on special teams. He had only six tackles, including three against Auburn.

Although he still gets occasional practice time at cornerback, he is now back at free safety, the position he played in high school.

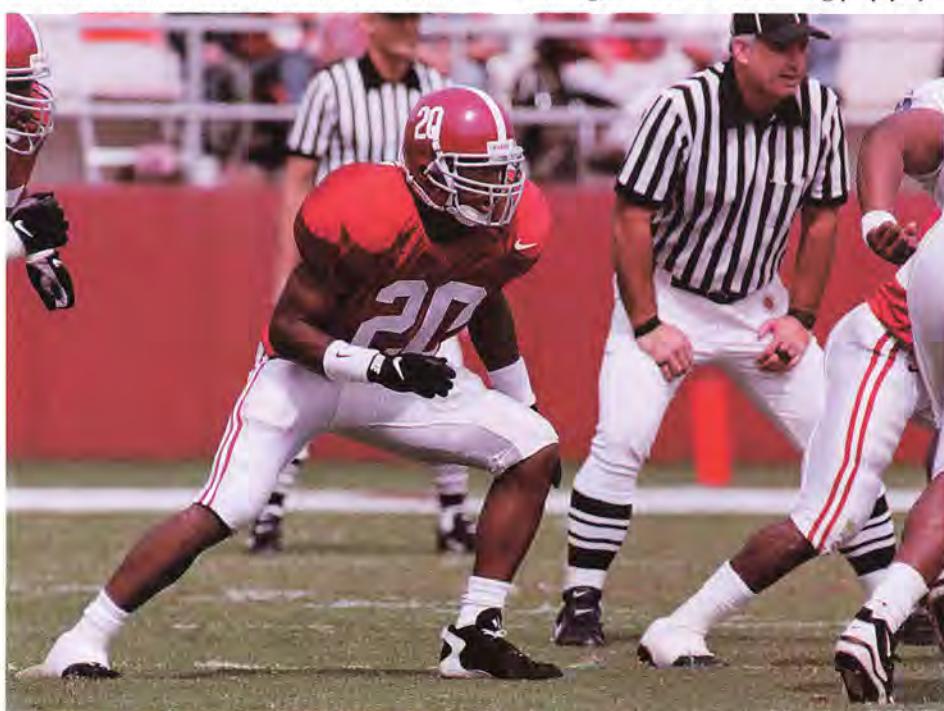
"I feel more comfortable at cornerback this year than I did last year, but I'm really a safety," Sigler said. Actually, as he pointed out, when he is in the game as a nickel back he is playing more like a cornerback than a safety. The primary function of a cornerback is to be able to cover pass receivers. The primary function of a safety—usually the last line of defense—is to be able to tackle.

He moved back to safety in the spring when returning starter Cedric Samuel was injured. Samuel missed most of spring work and Sigler was the number one safety. When Samuel returned late in the spring, Samuel was working both at cornerback and safety. However, when drills resumed in August a healthy Samuel regained his starting job at safety.

This year when Bryant was injured against North Carolina State, Sigler found himself getting work at cornerback. It wasn't a good week to be a defensive player, Sigler said. "After our meeting on Monday the defensive backs and linebackers had another meeting with Coach Stallings. He went over all our mistakes. He really got on us," Sigler said. "Then at practice, he stayed with the defense." The Tide's head coach ordinarily posi-

Safety Kelvin Sigler sees most of his playing time as a nickel back and on special teams, but he can also play cornerback if needed.

Barry Fikes Photo



tions himself with the offense, only occasionally checking the defensive practice field during practice.

His experience as a nickel back has helped him gain confidence at cornerback. "Both of those positions are usually playing man-to-man coverage," he said. "Even when we're in zone, it's just until a receiver comes across our face. Then we latch onto him in man coverage."

With Samuel a senior, Sigler expects to be a full-time free safety beginning next season.

Sigler thinks he made a lot of improvement from his freshman season to this year. "I know the defense a lot better. I can make the calls," he said. "But I still need to make a lot of improvement. I really need to get stronger because there are a lot of big backs we have to tackle."

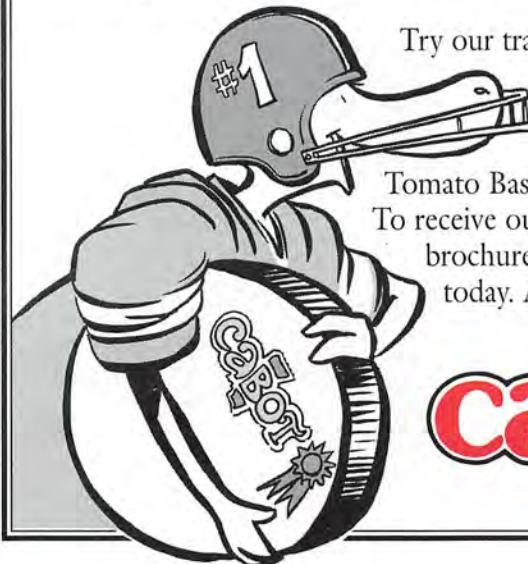
Sigler notes that the most important job of a safety is to make the tackle. "They like for us to come up and make the plays," he said. One problem is smaller squad limits make it dangerous to practice tackling. That's particularly true when there has been some injury attrition. "When we practice we just form up on the runner, wrap him up, and then release him," Sigler said.

While Sigler has been a part of two memorable plays in 1996, he hopes he's not ever part of one particular play that would be memorable. "I haven't gotten beat deep yet," he said, "and I hope I never do."

If he can accomplish that, he'll join a long list of memorable Crimson Tide players.

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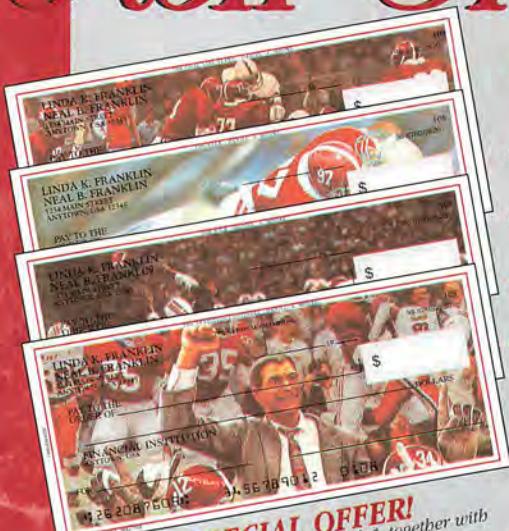
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Brian Cunningham:

He's Facing Yet Another Challenge

by Jeff Janes

Walk-on place-kicker has overcome the odds before

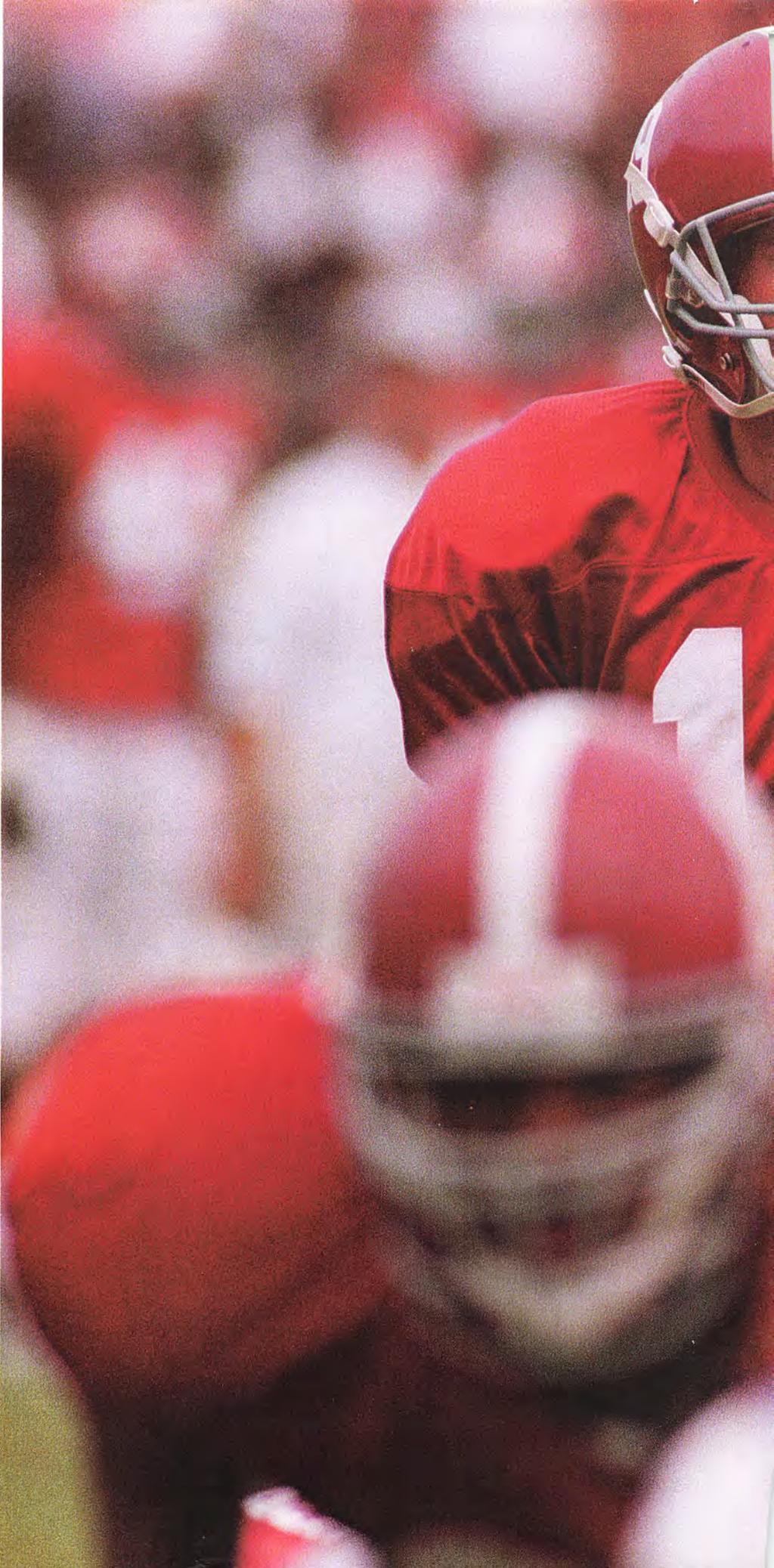
By his own admission, Brian Cunningham is not the most talented player on the University of Alabama football team. Cunningham, the sophomore place-kicker for the Crimson Tide, doesn't even claim to be the best player at his position despite winning the starting role with limited practice time during fall drills. In fact, the plots and subplots which comprise the story of his becoming number one on the depth chart are as dramatic as an episode of "ER."

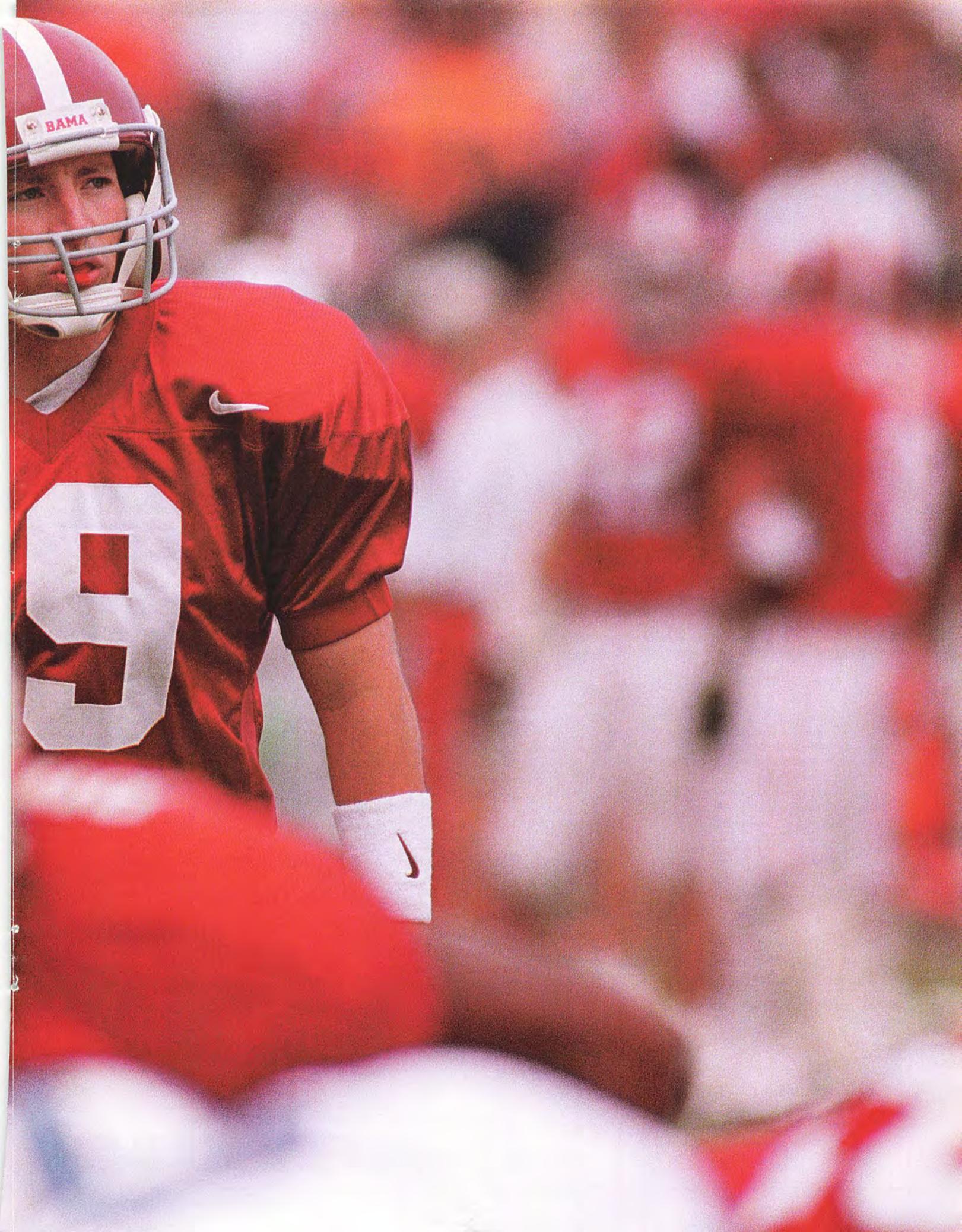
"Nobody really expected me to come in and kick immediately," said Cunningham. Until the first game of the season against Bowling Green, Tide fans did not know who to expect to see handling place-kicking duties. After Alabama's first touchdown of the 1996 season, a crowd of 83,091 people saw Brian Cunningham trot on the field and convert the first kicking opportunity of his career into an extra point. "The thing that made me nervous was looking at the goalposts and seeing all these faces staring back at me," said Cunningham. "My heart was pumping like crazy so I said a little prayer and told God if he wanted me to make it then let me make it."

Due to NCAA restrictions which prohibit teams from inviting all walk-on players to immediately participate in fall practice, Cunningham did not receive an invitation to report with the varsity squad until classes started later in August. He arrived to find both the level of competition and the expectations to be much higher than had been the case in the spring. Jon Brock, former place-kicker for the now defunct University of Pacific football program; Jonah Dismukes, an all-state kicker who represented Alabama

Most Bama football players first meet Crimson Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings on a recruiting visit. Place-kicker Brian Cunningham first met the Bama coach on a hospital visit, when Cunningham was hospitalized as a high school player.

Barry Fikes Photo







Tide place-kicker Brian Cunningham has an unusual technique in that he puts his plant (left) foot very close to the football (held by Lance Tucker) and then rolls that foot out of the way as he makes his kick.

Barry Fikes Photo

in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game; and Ryan Pflugner, a Florida native who received honorable mention status, provided the standard for Cunningham to live up to before the season began.

"I could have let it be intimidating for me but I came in with the attitude that I had nothing to lose," said Cunningham.

Cunningham's personal success story almost never happened due to his own procrastination. The last day walk-on players are allowed to report to the team, Cunningham began having second thoughts about his decision to play football at The Capstone. He began to question his ability and wondered if he was making the

right decision. His father realized the pressure he was under, but decided to make Brian make a decision. "My dad came in the room and told me if I wanted to play for The University of Alabama we had to leave right then and go to Tuscaloosa," said Cunningham. "It was literally a last-minute decision. I was so nervous, but I realized it was my dream to play here."

As odd as it is, Brian Cunningham first came in contact with Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings under very different circumstances which didn't resemble a recruiting visit. In fact it wasn't a recruiting visit at all. During Cunningham's senior season at Minor High School he was warming up with a fellow teammate before practice. They were throwing the football and as Brian went to execute a corner pattern he collided with a blocking sled. While not breaking a bone, the sharp edge of the sled spilt his kidney almost in half. Cunningham lifts his shirt and reveals a scar the size of a half-dollar coin on his left side.

"I was hospitalized for eight days after it happened and the doctors eventually had to drain over 1400 CCs of fluid off of the kidney," said Cunningham. Stallings happened to read about Cunningham's injury in the newspaper and paid a visit to the hospital. "Coach Stallings told me if there was ever anything he could do, to let him know," said Cunningham with a smile. "His visit meant a lot."

Battle scars aside, Cunningham decided there was something Stallings could do for him. And Cunningham took the coach up on his offer. Cunningham's high school statistics were, in his assessment, "not that good. After my high school season I figured my chances at playing anywhere were shot," said Cunningham. He converted on 9 of 17 field goals and 28 of 30 extra points his senior season at Minor High School in Birmingham which was good enough to receive attention from Coach Stallings. "Coach Stallings offered me a chance to walk-on here and I will always be thankful

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for that," said Cunningham. "I was going to try and play at Alabama or nowhere at all."

Following in the footsteps of such consistent kickers as Michael Proctor, Philip Doyle and Van Tiffin was never supposed to be easy so Cunningham worked extra hard in order to win the starting job. While Proctor, Doyle and Tiffin each had a style of their own, Cunningham developed a kicking technique which amazed Jefferson-Pilot television announcer Tim Brando. Cunningham, as virtually all place-kickers today, a soccer-style kicker, has the habit of rolling his ankle on his "plant foot" (the left foot for a right-footed kicker). During the telecast of the Arkansas game Brando questioned how Cunningham kicks without breaking his ankle.

"The only thing I can figure out is that my plant foot comes so close to the ball when I kick that I have to roll my ankle," said Cunningham. "I really can't explain it."

"The odd thing is that I never did that in high school but I seem to be doing okay right now."

Another oddity for Cunningham occurred during the week of preparation for Arkansas. Cunningham experienced what he said team doctors referred to as a "mystery injury." During practice he could not

lift his leg to kick which caused some consternation within the special teams ranks. "I'm not sure what was wrong but the injury was in my hip," said Cunningham. "I had experienced it the week before and I think it was just a case of tendonitis."

The 5-11, 177 pound Cunningham isn't known for power kicks and his previous long had been a 42-yard attempt which he made in high school. His longest field goal of the 1996 season was a 46-yarder against Southern Mississippi. The knock against Cunningham has been his tendency to kick the ball low, thus making the attempt much easier to block. That trait proved costly to Bama and to Cunningham against North Carolina State. Cunningham was unable to pick the ball off the grass at Carter-Finley Stadium with the score tied at 7-7 late in the first half and Bama close to the North Carolina State goal line. That allowed the Wolfpack rush to block the attempt. The next Alabama field goal attempt, a 22-yarder, was kicked by senior transfer Jon Brock who Coach Stallings inserted into the game to finish out kicking duties for the day.

Prior to the block, Cunningham had been good on six of seven field goals and 17 of 18 extra point kicks. Now he's locked in a bat-

tle with Brock for kicking honors through the rest of the season. As Stallings pointed out, "the job of place-kicker is open every week. But it is for every position. It changes in practice frequently."

Stallings has the reputation for placing emphasis on special teams and blocked kicks are unacceptable. After the game Stallings lamented over Cunningham's inability to kick the ball higher. "He's got to get that ball up," said Stallings. Before the botched attempt at North Carolina State, Alabama had gone almost five years without having a field goal blocked. The last time it occurred was against Auburn during the 1991 season when Ricky Sutton blocked Matt Wethington's 28-yard attempt.

Each kick Cunningham makes is vital to an Alabama football team that doesn't score a lot of points. While other teams tease with triple digits in the scoring column each Saturday, the Tide's conservative philosophy puts added importance on a quality kicker. However, it seems Cunningham has dealt with larger challenges than football. "I've never thought of it like that but I guess it's true," said Cunningham. "My family has been behind me 100 per cent and that has helped me handle the pressure. Just being in this position is my dream."



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Tide Has Some Top Performers

by Andrew Varble III

Women have numerous returning stars, men have impressive newcomers

It was certainly a gratifying summer for the Alabama Swimming and Diving program. Former Crimson Tide All-American Jon Olsen swam for gold as part of two relays in addition to serving as captain of the United States men's team. Current Alabama sprinter Rania Elwani provided crimson tinted excitement on the women's side, representing her native Egypt in the sprint freestyle events. It was certainly a time for Tide pride.

Now with the season turning seemingly from summer straight to winter, the Tide's focus has shifted from Olympic glory back to the work at hand, building and enhancing Alabama's place in the ranks of NCAA powers.

The women's side of the slate looks increasingly strong. Alabama returns seven swimmers who have had their mettle tested at the NCAA Championships. The Tide lost only three swimmers off a squad that finished fourth at the 1996 Southeastern Conference Championships and 13th at the NCAA Championships and have signed athletes that third-year Head Coach Chuck Horton judges to be solid talents in needed areas.

Elwani returns after a stellar freshman campaign that included winning the SEC 100 freestyle crown, finaling in the 50 and 100 freestyle at the NCAA Championships and setting the school record in those events. With a good summer of training under her belt and the experience of swimming at the Olympics, Elwani should be ready to renew her assault on the school record book and SEC and NCAA level competition.

Junior co-captain Karen Jones, a Birmingham native, continues to improve, making her one of the best butterflyers in the country. Last season Jones finished second to teammate Stacy Potter in the SEC 100 butterfly race. With Potter gone to graduation, Jones is heir apparent to the crown. Backing Jones up in the butterfly will be senior Anna Lindberg. Lindberg has finalied in the 100 butterfly each of her first three seasons and looks to put an exclamation point on a sterling career.

Senior Ann-Sofie Joensson, the school record holder in the mile, returns to wreak havoc in the distance events. She finalied in the 500 and 1650 freestyles at the SEC Championships and in the 1650 at the



Among the top returning performers for the 1996-97 Alabama swimming and diving teams are (left to right) diver Brent Roberts, diver Dana Bleich, sprint freestyler Rania Elwani and breaststroker Adam McBride.

Barry Fikes Photo

NCAA Championships last season. Considered by her coaches to be one of the most dependable and solid athletes on the Tide's roster, Joensson is another senior looking to go out in style.

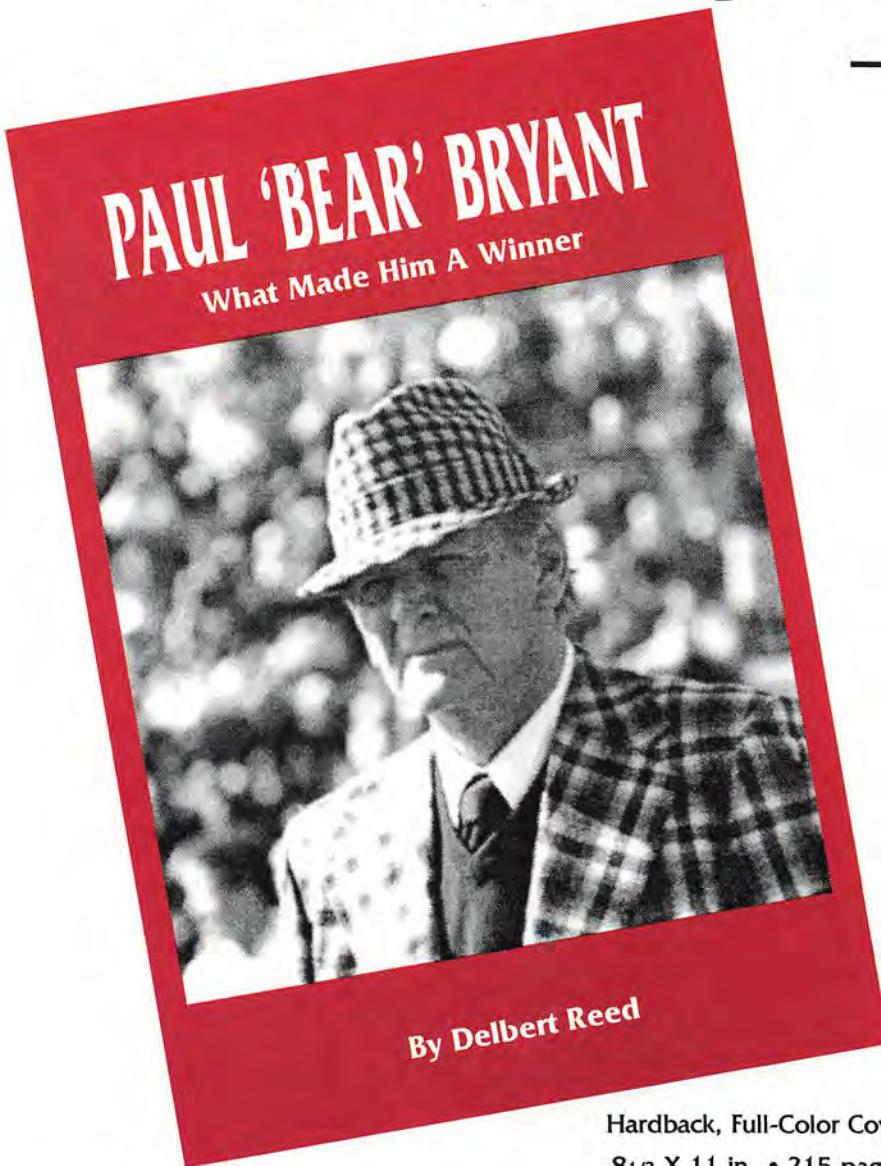
In the backstrokes, Alabama returns school record holder Jenny Dudley. In addition to setting the school record in the 200 backstroke and posting the second fastest 100 backstroke in Tide history, Dudley finalied at the SEC Championships in both events and scored in both at the NCAA Championships. Dudley also gained valuable experience racing at the U.S. Olympic Trials. Dudley will be backed up by senior Tiffany Berry.

Breaststroke is the Tide's deepest event starting with senior All-America Francine Mathot. Mathot finalied in both breaststrokes last season and is the second fastest 200 breaststroker in Tide history. Sophomore Ryann Taylor finalied in the 200 breaststroke

at the SEC Championships as well as scoring in the 200 and 400 individual medleys. Sophomore Keri Coy scored at the SEC Championships in both distances. Junior Maria Elm scored in the 200 breast at the SEC Championship and was the Tide's fastest in the 400 individual medley.

In addition to Elwani in the sprints and Joensson in the distance events, Alabama returns team captain senior Sarah Hickinbotham, All-America junior Laura Lloyd and SEC scorer and sophomore Michelle Wise in the freestyle events. Hickinbotham has the range to swim anything from the 100 to the 1650 and will provide depth up and down the Tide's lineup as well as veteran leadership. Lloyd earned honorable mention All-America honors on both the 200 and 400 freestyle relays last season. Wise, a native of Birmingham, scored in the 200 freestyle at the SEC Championships, posting the Tide's second

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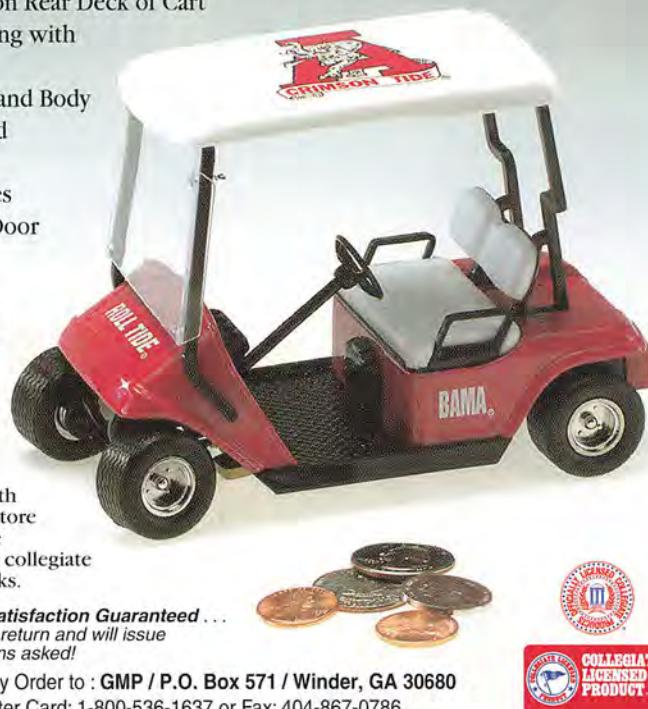
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fastest 200 time, behind Elwani.

The diving corp will once again be among the strongest in the country with reigning SEC 10-meter champion Dana Bleich returning for her senior campaign. Bleich set the SEC record last season off the 10-meter and finished third in that event at the NCAA Championships, the Tide's highest individual finish of the meet, earning her All-America honors. Junior Jill DeVasher scored off the 10 and three-meter boards at the SEC Championships and was the Tide's highest finisher off the three-meter at the NCAA Zone B Qualifying meet.

To this abundance of veteran talent, Horton has added a trio of talented signees. Sarah Burns was the Tennessee High School Swimmer of the Year last season and is a nine-time high school All-America. Burns will see action in the sprint freestyle arena. Joining Burns in the freestyle lane will be Jackie Slingerland. Slingerland was a three-time high school All-America and 1994 Junior National Champion in the 800-meter freestyle. Brooke Donoho will add strength to the Tide's already impressive breaststroke contingent. A 1994 and 1995 U.S. Swimming Scholastic All-America, Donoho finished eighth in the 200-meter breaststroke at the 1994 Senior Nationals.

The women have the talent to return to the top-10. The Tide's success will depend

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The men's roster shows an extremely young team whose best swimming is in front of it. Alabama has four seniors, no juniors, six sophomores and nine freshmen, making for a very young but talented squad. The pride of Alabama's roster will be its divers. Returning are All-Americans Brent Roberts, a sophomore, and Josh Luber, a senior. Roberts was the Tide's lone scorer at the 1996 NCAA Championships finishing fifth off the 10-meter platform and 13th off the three-meter board, giving Alabama a 30th place team finish. Diving Coach Pat Greenwell adds prep standouts Alan Rose and Chris Dunn to his veteran duo. Rose was a regional medalist and Dunn was a Florida state champion.

The Tide's freestyle efforts will be headed up by sophomore Kris Fisher in the sprints and senior Arnar Olafsson and sophomores Marc Schrader, Sean Muncie and Chris Ross in the distance arena. Fisher's times during his freshman campaign rank him as one of the top 50 and 100 freestylers in Tide history a list that includes several Olympic medalist and world record-holders. Freshmen Matt Pendleton, Rick Pratt, Mark Jollands, Donald Morrison and Chris Wood have all been brought in by Horton to help out in the freestyle area. Pendleton is high school All-America and the Indiana state champion in the 100 freestyle. Pratt scored in both the 100 and 200 freestyles at the Canadian National Championships. Wood holds the Idaho state record in the 50 and 100 freestyles. Jollands was a finalist in the 200-meter freestyle at the World Championships representing South Africa. Morrison is one of the top-25 50-meter freestylers in the world.

The Tide's backstroke effort will be headed up by senior Scott Bell. Bell scored in the 200 backstroke each of the last two seasons at the SEC Championships. Fisher may also see some backstroke action depending on freshman development in the freestyle events. Freshman Glen Walshaw, a member of the Zimbabwe national team for the last three years, will help shore up the backstroke lane as well as heading up the individual medley lane.

Breaststroke duties will fall to senior co-captain Adam McBride of Birmingham. McBride has been the Tide's top breaststroker each of the last two seasons, scoring in both the 100 and 200 breaststrokes at the SEC Championships two years running.

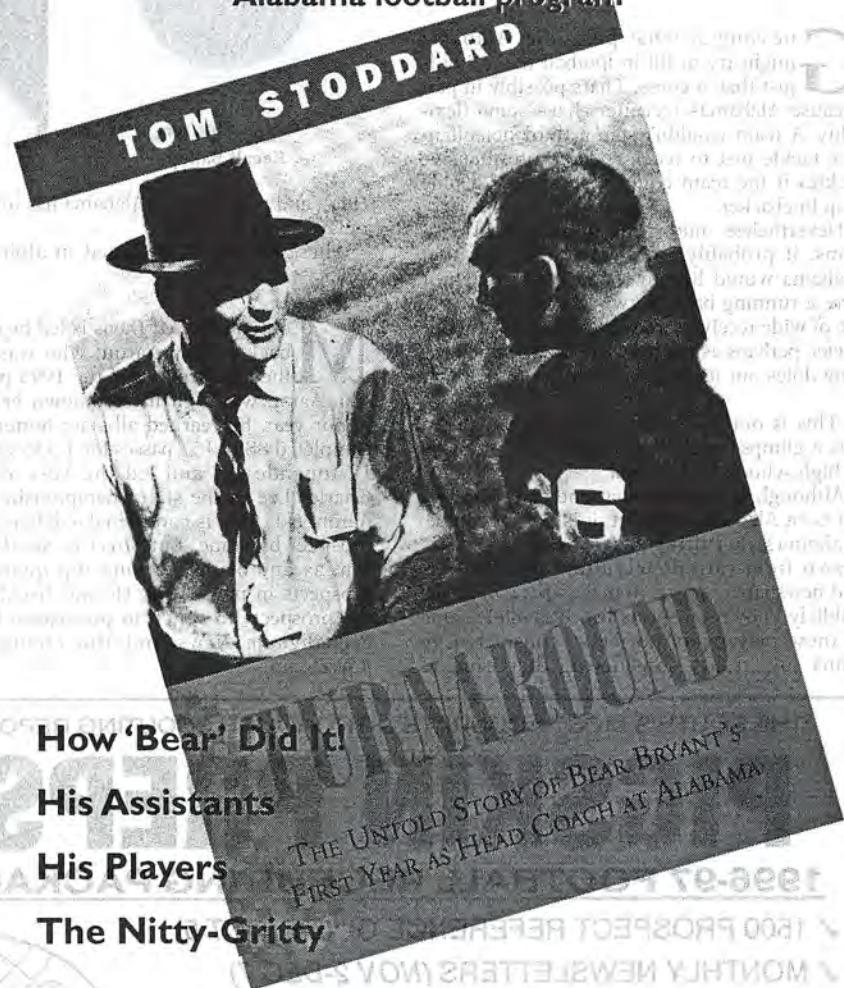
Butterfly duties will fall to freshman Carter Hull. Hull is a two-time North Carolina state champion in the 100 butterfly. The All-America also won the 200 freestyle state championship as a junior.

If the Tide's youth makes a successful transition to college swimming, the Tide could be in for its best season in recent memory. If the Tide men can hit on all cylinders, then a return to the NCAAs top-20 is within Alabama's grasp.

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Prep Prospects:

A Look At In-State Skill Players

by Kirk McNair

Tide needs to add several skill position players, and state has some prospects

Guessing at what positions Alabama might try to fill in football recruiting is just that: a guess. That's possibly in part because Alabama's recruiters have some flexibility. A team wouldn't sign a third tier offensive tackle just to reach a quota on offensive tackles if the team could instead land a blue chip linebacker.

Nevertheless, among the so-called skill positions, it probably isn't far off to think that Alabama would like to sign a quarterback or two, a running back or two, a fullback, a couple of wide receivers and a handful of defensive backs, perhaps as many as five or six, when the Tide doles out its 24 scholarships on February 5.

This is our second look at prep prospects, this a glimpse at the backs and wide receivers in high schools in Alabama.

Although we are sure that one player on this list is an Alabama prospect, it is not, of course, Alabama's recruiting list. These names are drawn from various recruiting publications and newspaper reports to make up a consensus publicly known prospects list. It is likely some of these players are not being considered by Bama (or are not considering the Crimson



Kecalf Bailey



Adam Cox



Tony Dixon

Tide), and possible that Alabama has interest in a player not on this list.

These prospects are listed in alphabetical order.

Montgomery Jeff Davis is led by quarterback Jeffery Aaron, who was one of the big surprises of the 1995 prep season. Aaron was a virtual unknown before his junior year, but earned all-state honors as he completed 88 of 157 passes for 1,336 yards and 12 touchdowns and led the Vols of Coach Charles Lee to the state championship game. Aaron, 6-1, 185, is considered a defensive back prospect by some, but *Street & Smith* touted him as one of the nation's top quarterback prospects in pre-season. He was listed among the prospects to watch in pre-season by *The Birmingham News* and the *Montgomery Advertiser*.

Kecalf Bailey, considered by many to be the top prospect in Alabama this year (and ranked number one in the *Tuscaloosa News* pre-season Sweet 16), has already committed to sign with Alabama. He's a 5-10, 175-pound cornerback for defending champion and top-ranked Tuscaloosa Central. Bailey has had an excellent year for the Falcons of Coach Buzz Busby, including blocking at least one kick in each of undefeated Central's first five games.

Herman Banks, a 6-1, 175-pound wide receiver for Coach Don Woods at Hartselle, was ranked among the top prospects in the state in pre-season, including as high as eighth by the *Tuscaloosa News*. He was 13th by *The Birmingham News* and 14th by *The Birmingham Post-Herald*. He was ranked among the top 75 players in the Southeast by *Pigskin Preps*.

Everyone who has seen Tuscaloosa Central's Herman Bell play football knows that he is a

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top prospect, but the question is for what position. He's a running back for the Falcons, but many project the 5-6, 170-pounder as a wide receiver and kick return specialist in college. He was ranked in the second 16 by the *Tuscaloosa News*, 19th by the *Post-Herald*.

Larry Casher is considered the top prospect in the normally talent-rich Mobile area. Casher, 5-10, 170, is a defensive back for Coach Ben Harris at Blount High School in Prichard. He was on the second 12 of *The Birmingham News*' Super 12 pre-season and honorable mention by the *Tuscaloosa News* and *Post-Herald*.

Coach Bubba Davis at Walker High School in Jasper has the type player a team can build an attack around. **Adam Cox**, 6-1, 218, has the size and the speed (4.5 in the 40) to be an excellent running back. And he is. Cox rushed for over 1,700 yards and 21 touchdowns as a junior (including one game in which he rushed for 265 yards), earning him high spots on all the pre-season teams—second by *The Birmingham News*, fourth by the *Post-Herald*, fifth by the *Montgomery Advertiser*, and sixth by the *Tuscaloosa News*. He has good blocking and pass-catching skills and also has a 3.66 grade point average. He was on the *Pigskin Preps* honor list.

Tony Dixon could be a running back or a defensive back in college, but one thing is sure: he will be playing college football next year. Dixon, a three-year starter for Coach John Montgomery at Pickens County in Reform, has a 3.5 grade point average and made 20 on the ACT as a junior. He also stars in baseball and basketball. Dixon, 6-2, 193, runs a 4.46 40. He is a two-way player and a pre-season All-America. Last year he had over 1,300 yards rushing with 22 overall touchdowns (some on defense). As a safety he had 115 tackles and five pass interceptions. He was ranked as the second, third or fourth top prospect in the state on every newspaper pre-season list. He was on the *Pigskin Preps* honor list.

Curtis Donnell, 6-0, 175, is a running back for Coach Terry Curtis at Mobile Murphy. He is a three-year starter who has also run track. Last year he rushed for 1,287 yards, averaging over six yards per carry, and also had four kickoff returns for 168 yards and caught 17 passes for 267 yards. He accounted for 17 touchdowns, five of them in one game. He had one game this year in which he rushed for 191 yards and scored five touchdowns. He was put at number 14 on *The Birmingham News* pre-season prospects list.

The pre-season prospect lists don't include Montgomery Jeff Davis cornerback Harold Franklin. That's because he suffered a leg injury last spring and had not been expected to be able to play football this fall. But Franklin was on the practice field the first day of workouts in the fall for Coach Charles Lee. He was part of a young defense that made it to the finals of the 6A playoffs last year. He's 5-9, 170, and also has some experience as a wide receiver.

Coach Larry Ginn at Alexandria has had every coach's dream for the past four years. His son, Todd Ginn, has been the starting quarterback, and an excellent one. Todd, 6-1, 185, is also a basketball guard and

shortstop in baseball. He was all-state as a junior and he also has a 3.74 grade point average. As a junior he completed 99 of 153 pass attempts for 1,143 yards and 17 touchdowns and also had two touchdowns rushing in a 15-0 state championship season. He was also his team's punter and place-kicker. Ginn threw only 27 second half passes last year because Alexandria ordinarily had substantial leads by intermission. He started strong this year, too, including hitting 11 of 15 passes for three touchdowns in an early game and coming back with games of three and four touchdowns.

Antonio Gray, 6-0, 181, is a quarterback and free safety for Coach Dwight Lawler at Trinity West Morgan who was an honorable mention

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Todd Ginn

pre-season top prospect by *The Birmingham News*. The four-year football starter is also a member of the track and basketball teams. He was most valuable player in the area last year as he rushed for 519 yards and eight touchdowns and passed for 350 yards and four touchdowns.

Maurice Green, a 6-0, 200-pound running back at Holt, just a stone's throw from the Alabama campus, has stacked up some incredible numbers on the football field for Coach Jerry Wright's Ironmen this year. In his first seven games he had rushed for 1,731 yards (an average of just under 250 yards per game). Durable? In one game he had 45 carries for 375 yards and touchdown runs of 58, 17 and six yards. However, Green has indicated he will be going to junior college before signing with a major college.

Kenyon Hambrick, 6-1, 170, is an exceptional wide receiver for Coach Harold Wells at Huntsville J.O. Johnson. He had 47 catches for 825 yards as a junior and was named eighth best prospect in the state by the *Montgomery Advertiser*. He runs a 4.55 40. Hambrick also plays defense and had 47 tackles and five interceptions last year. He is also an outstanding basketball player. He was also given high marks by *The Birmingham News*, the *Post-Herald* and the *Tuscaloosa News*.

Jeff Kelly is not only one of the top prospects in Alabama, but the 6-2, 200-pound quarterback for Coach Ronny Massey at Citronelle is considered a national prospect. He is regularly mentioned as being sought by the likes of Notre Dame and Georgia Tech. He was a pre-season All-America after making all-state as a junior. Last year he completed 120 of 210 passes for 1,880 yards with 12 touchdowns and only five interceptions. Earlier this year he completed 10 of 24 passes for 184 yards and three touchdowns. One reason he has his pick of schools? Because he takes accelerated classes, he has a grade point average of 4.5 (above "perfect") and he scored 28 on the ACT as a junior. In pre-season he was named to the top lists of prospects by all state newspapers. He was on the *Pigskin Preps* honor list.

Mailon Kent would have to be considered a real long shot to end up at Alabama, even if his Mountain Brook High School coach, former Bama star Joey Jones, put extra pressure on him. That's because Kent, a 6-0, 165-pound quarterback, is Mailon Kent III, and his dad is the former Auburn star quarterback Mailon Kent Jr. Kent, who has also played safety for Mountain Brook, isn't on any of the pre-season

lists as this is his first year to start at quarterback, but he has been one of the surprises of the state with his success. He threw for three touchdowns and ran for another in one game this year, then later had a game in which he ran 26 and 97 yards for touchdowns and also threw 83 yards for a score. He is an excellent student.

Michael Ketchum is a defensive back and wide receiver who is considered a defensive prospect. The 6-1, 180-pounder plays for Coach Fred Yancey at Birmingham's Briarwood Christian. His position coach is former Alabama star cornerback Jeremiah Castille.

Wayne Madkin is a 6-4, 200-pound quarterback at Huntsville Johnson where he teams with Kenyon Hambrick to form a fine battery for Coach Harold Wells. Earlier this year he passed for 247 yards and two touchdowns and in another game hit 27 of 38 passes for 301 yards and three touchdowns. He is also a member of the basketball team. As a junior he passed for 1,700 yards and 20 touchdowns and was named most valuable offensive player in the city. He has gone to basketball camps at both Auburn and Tennessee. He was listed as a prospect to watch by all of the state newspapers.

Ramone McLemore is a 6-1, 200-pound running back for Coach Mike Battles at Hueytown. He was listed as a prospect to watch by both *The Birmingham News* and the *Montgomery Advertiser*.

Myron Monroe may be overlooked by some because he is one of a large number of skill position players on the powerful Tuscaloosa Central team, but the 5-10, 190-pound cornerback and wide receiver for Coach Buzz Busby is considered a major college prospect. He is also a good student and a member of the baseball and track squads. As a junior he turned in two interceptions (one for a touchdown), blocked three punts (one for a touchdown) and had 86 primary tackles, 63 assists. He is a cousin of Bama strong safety Andre Short.

Brock Nutter is another player overshadowed, not so much at his school, Birmingham Hoover, but at his position, quarterback. The 6-1, 185-pounder for Coach Gerald Gann gets the job done on the football field, but gets only a little mention as a major college prospect. However, he was listed as the state's 23rd top prospect in pre-season by *The Birmingham News* and was in the second 20 list by the

Post-Herald.

Erwin High School in Birmingham has an all-around athlete and an all-around student in Rob Pate. The 6-2, 200-pounder for Coach Hal Riddle is a wingback on offense and strong safety on defense and a four-year starter. He's also an excellent student with above an overall 4.0 grade point average and a 24 on the ACT. He also plays basketball and baseball. He was all-state and Super All-Metro as a junior as he had 15 touchdowns, two of them coming off interceptions. He was ranked 10th by *The Birmingham News* and *Montgomery Advertiser*, 14th by the *Post-Herald*, and 16th by the *Tuscaloosa News*.

Kyle Rea is a four-year starter at fullback and free safety for Coach Teddy Ikerd at Russellville. He's also a four-year first baseman on the baseball squad. He's a two-year all-area player and was honorable mention all-state as a junior. Last year he rushed for 1,267 yards and had 258 yards receiving, accounting for 15 touchdowns. He just missed the 1,000-yard plateau rushing as a sophomore. He was listed as a prospect to watch by all the state newspapers.

Kyle Reeves is a 6-2, 210-pound quarterback from a school with a strong quarterback heritage, Attalla Etowah, coached by Raymond Farmer. The school has produced former Auburn quarterback Patrick Nix and current Bama quarterback Freddie Kitchens in recent years. Last year he completed 118 of 224 passes for 1,515 yards and 13 touchdowns, earning him all-area honors. He was listed as an honorable mention prospect by the *Post-Herald* and the *Montgomery Advertiser*. He also plays baseball.

Tony Rutledge is a 5-11, 180-pound running back and wide receiver on offense and defensive back for Coach Theodore Washington at Selma. He is a four-year starter who has also started every year on both the basketball and baseball teams. He earned all-state honors as a junior as he rushed for 925 yards.

Ashland Clay County is one of the state's powerhouse teams again this year, in great part because of the play of split end and defensive back Stanford Simmons. Simmons, 6-3, 190, is considered a prospect on either offense or defense, although most recruiting publications list him as a safety. He has been a part of back-to-back state championship teams for Coach Danny Horn. He also stars on the basketball team. He is a two-time all-state performer in football. Last year he had 75 tackles, six interceptions, caused four fumbles, made 22 receptions,

tions for 666 yards and eight touchdowns and rushed for 166 yards and three touchdowns. He was on the *Pigskin Preps* honor list, and was listed as the state's top prospect by the *Montgomery Advertiser* and was listed in the top 10 by every state newspaper.

Greg Smith is one of those big backs that every program is looking for. He's a 6-2, 228-pounder who runs a 4.55 40-yard dash for Coach John Maddaloni at always-powerful Wetumpka. Although he has excellent talent, he is expected to begin his college career at the junior college level.

Jason Standridge was listed as one of the state's top prospects in the pre-season (second by the *Post-Herald*, third by *The Birmingham News*, fifth by the *Tuscaloosa News*, and 11th by the *Montgomery Advertiser*), and the 6-4, 210-pound quarterback has improved his stock during the season. He plays for Coach Jack Wood at Hewitt-Trussville, and because of his style of play and his lifestyle he is constantly compared to a former Hewitt-Trussville quarterback, ex-Tide star Jay Barker. Last year he completed 40 of 95 passes for 550 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 250 yards and 11 touchdowns. He has also earned letters as a baseball pitcher and as a wrestler.

While there will be a tendency on the part of many to overlook Dothan running back Wayne Thomas because his senior season ended mid-year with a broken leg, that might be a mistake. The 5-11, 180-pound running back for Coach James Addison at Dothan had rushed for 800

yards and 11 touchdowns through the first half of the season. Thomas had one game in which he rushed for 241 yards and three touchdowns. He had been on the prospect-watch list of all the state's major newspapers prior to this year.

Brent Tinker could be listed with the state's top linemen and linebackers, too, but this 6-1, 205-pounder for Coach Tommy Wells at Ider is considered a fullback prospect after starting for four years. He rushed for just under 2,000 yards as a junior and had one game in which he rushed for 245 yards and four touchdowns and made 10 tackles from his outside linebacker position. This year he had a game in which he had 21 carries for 250 yards and four touchdowns and another when he carried only eight times but had 187 yards and three touchdowns and returned a punt for a score. He is a good student and also plays for the baseball and basketball squads.

Jeff Tippets, 6-3, 185, is the quarterback for Coach Russell Burroughs at Jacksonville and could be playing against Alabama in a few years. It's not that it's unusual for prep stars in the state to go to schools other than Alabama. Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Auburn, Tennessee, Southern Miss, etc. regularly draw from Alabama for players who play against the Tide. But Tippets may be playing for a team that has never played Alabama, but will in 1998. He is high on Brigham Young's recruiting list. He is also considering Auburn, Vanderbilt and Michigan. He

had a top game this year of passing for 276 yards and three touchdowns.

Jason Wallace is a 6-1, 180-pound quarterback for Coach Don Woods at Hartselle, where he combines with wide receiver Herman Banks to form a powerful passing offense. In his first year as a starter last year he passed for 1,650 yards and 15 touchdowns with only five interceptions. Wallace had a top game of completing 14 of 19 passes for 377 yards and three touchdowns. He was listed as a prospect to watch by both *The Birmingham News* and the *Montgomery Advertiser*. He's also a baseball player and a good student.

Although the defenses are loaded up to stop him, Antoneyo Williams is still the main man for powerful Tuscaloosa Central. The 6-0, 208-pound tailback for Coach Buzz Busby was named the state's number one prospect by both *The Birmingham News* and the *Post-Herald* and was a top four selection by every state newspaper. He was on the *Pigskin Preps* honor list. As a junior he rushed for 1,607 yards and 24 touchdowns. In a spring practice game he rushed for 188 yards and four touchdowns in three quarters of play against defending Mississippi state champion Starkville. He is the brother-in-law of former Tide running back Linnie Patrick, who was the state's number one prospect out of Jasper Walker in the late 1970s.

Rod Wilson is a 6-1, 190-pound running back at Foley where he plays for Coach Jimmy Nazary. He was listed as a prospect to watch by both *The Birmingham News* and the *Montgomery Advertiser*.

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Basketball Prospects:

Bama Searches For Early Signees

by Kirk McNair

Tide looking at high school and junior college players

With the early signing period (November 13-20) nearing, Alabama Basketball Coach David Hobbs and his staff could hardly have gotten a bigger boost. It's no secret that any player good enough to play at the Southeastern Conference level thinks about the possibility of a big bucks NBA career. And when *Sports Illustrated* came out with its Basketball Yearbook, there was an extremely positive story on the success of the Crimson Tide in placing players in the NBA.

The story, "The Bama Boom" by Phil Taylor, pointed out that nine players from what is traditionally considered a football school are active members of NBA teams. Only North Carolina (14 players), Michigan (10) and UCLA (10) have more former players in the NBA.

The article quoted former Tide players, general managers of NBA teams and Hobbs and all pointed out that Alabama players are sought by the NBA and succeed there because they are taught to be hard workers, good defensive players, and unselfish team-oriented players.

Former Tide players Keith Askins, David Benoit, Jason Caffey, Robert Horry, Antonio McDyess, Derrick McKey, James Robinson, Roy Rogers and Latrell Sprewell are mentioned.

Vancouver President and General Manager Stu Jackson said, "I'm sure we'll have somebody making a visit or two (to Tuscaloosa). If you're looking for players and you don't look at Alabama, you're not doing your job."

Alabama is now looking for players who will be looked at by the NBA scouts in Tuscaloosa. A number of top prospects, both high school and junior college players, have surfaced in connection with the Crimson Tide.

The Tide already has one commitment. Terrance Martin, a 6-3 guard for Tuscaloosa Central, has announced that he will sign on November 13. Martin, who was most valuable player in two summer basketball camps in Birmingham last summer, picked Bama over Auburn, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Arkansas-Little Rock. Players don't post big numbers in Coach Roosevelt Sanders' controlled (and successful) system, but Martin averaged 12.6 points, 6.4 rebounds and 3.6 assists in leading Central to the sub-state championship game against eventual state champion Birmingham West End. He is an excellent student (3.34 grade point average), one reason he attracted attention from Ivy League schools.

Bama is expected to sign as many as five

players this year. For those not signed in the early period, the late signing period for almost all sports except football is April 9-May 15.

For some reason, the state of Alabama did not produce many highly-regarded prep prospects for a number of years, but that trend seems to have turned. In addition to Martin, a number of high school seniors in Alabama have made it onto the national recruiting lists. Alabama is thought to be involved with several of them.

Most consider the top prospect in Alabama to be Mountain Brook's Tyrus Boswell, a 6-7 power forward who is adept inside and outside. While Boswell has been ranked among the nation's top prospects on national recruiting lists, he is also listed as borderline for qualifying academically.

There should be no academic problems for the state's top-rated point guard, 6-3 LeAndrew Bass of Birmingham West End. Bass led his team to last year's 6A state championship, then under the coaching of former Tide star Robert Scott. Scott has since taken a job as an assistant coach at Alabama-Birmingham, but Bass is not expected to sign with UAB. In addition to being a star player, Bass is excellent in the classroom.

While there are other players in Alabama mentioned on various lists, including center Cornelius Williams, 6-11, of Jacksonville, and 6-4 guard Alex Beason of Albertville, but Alabama has not been linked with them.

Two top prep players in Georgia are reportedly considering Alabama.

Tarik London is a 6-1 point guard for Beach High School in Savannah, Georgia. He's a four-year starter who averaged 18 points and nine assists for last year's state runner-up team that had a 30-4 record. He's also considering Georgia and Tennessee, among others. He is a strong student who has already qualified academically and plans to sign in the early period.

Neil Ashby is a 6-9, 185-pound forward at Tri-Cities High School in East Point, Georgia, who is considering Alabama, Connecticut, Clemson and Georgia, among many. However, he may not sign in the early period. Last year he averaged 16 points, eight rebounds, seven blocked shots and four assists.

There are also reports of Alabama being involved with Jumaine Jones, a 6-7, 190-pound power forward at Mitchell-Baker High School in Camillia, Georgia. He is ranked among the nation's top players. He averaged 28.5 points and 14.0 rebounds per game. The Tide is said to trail the likes of Georgia, North Carolina State, Connecticut and Tulane.

Elsewhere in the South, Bama has been linked to top players in Louisiana and Florida.

Charles Hayward, a 6-9, 200-pound inside player from Peabody High School in Alexandria, Louisiana, has reportedly narrowed his choices to Alabama, Arkansas, Houston, Memphis and North Carolina-Charlotte. He averaged 20 points, 17.6 rebounds and five blocked shots as a junior.

Power forward Dwayne Wimbley, 6-9, 220, from St. Thomas High School in Fort

Lauderdale, Florida, is reportedly considering Bama, but Florida State is considered the leader for him. He averaged 18.3 points and 12.7 rebounds per game as a junior and is an excellent student.

Something of a surprise is that Bama is not being mentioned with prospects in Mississippi, where the Tide has had excellent success in the past. (In fact, three of those nine players in the NBA from Alabama came from Mississippi high school programs.) The top prospects in Mississippi include Tephen Hamilton, a 6-7 wing forward at Jackson Lanier, and Rahim Lockhart, a 6-8 power forward at Piney Woods.

Last summer there were reports that Melvin Ely, a 6-10 center from Harvey, Illinois, was considering Alabama, but Ely is spending his senior season at a prep school in Maine and national recruiting publications no longer list him with Bama.

Alabama has had good success over the years with junior college transfers. Two of them (David Benoit and Latrell Sprewell) are now in the NBA.

Among junior college players Bama has been linked to this year are:

Dewayne Brown, a 6-7, 260-pound inside player at Jones Junior College in Ellisville, Mississippi, was a top prep player for Coach Clarence Blackman at Jess Lanier High School in Bessemer. Last year at Jones he averaged 14 points and nine rebounds per game. This year he will play for Coach Robbie Lane, formerly at Auburn.

An unlikely junior college player in Texas is Francisco Elson, a seven-foot center from The Netherlands. He is playing for Coach Phil Shumaker at Kilgore Junior College. He averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds per game as a freshman.

It appears Alabama is not high on the list of Javares Anderson, 6-10, the former Greenville High star who signed with the Tide following the 1994 season. Anderson was not eligible and has spent the past two years at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Florida, playing for Coach Dan McGovern. He led all Florida junior college players in blocked shots last year with over 100 and averaged eight points and eight rebounds per game. He is expected to sign with Southern California.

Speaking of Southern California (the area, not the school), there's another player in junior college this year who is not playing and who will be eligible to transfer at the end of this year. However, he will not sign because he had previously signed with and played for Notre Dame. Mark Gottlieb was the starting point guard for the Fighting Irish last year, but elected to leave. He is spending this year at Golden West Junior College in Huntington Beach, California, which is near his home. He is not playing junior college basketball but is practicing and working out, using this as a redshirt year before selecting the school where he will play next year. Alabama is among the schools he is considering.

1996-97 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 7	Marathon Oil (Exh.)	7:00
Nov. 14	BC Sibenik Croatia (Exh.)	7:00
Nov. 22	Top of the World Classic	
Nov. 24	@ Fairbanks, Alaska	
Nov. 22	UNC-Wilmington	4:15
(Other participants: Baylor, Providence, Middle Tennessee, Montana, Southern Illinois, Alaska-Fairbanks)		
Nov. 30	Northeastern Illinois	7:00
Dec. 2	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	7:00
Dec. 5	Minnesota	7:00
Dec. 7	@ Florida International	6:30
Dec. 14	Western Carolina	7:00
Dec. 18	North Texas	7:00
Dec. 21	Virginia Commonwealth	2:00*
	@ Birmingham	
Dec. 27-	Cable Car Classic	
Dec. 28	@ San Jose, Calif.	
Dec. 27	San Jose State	10:00
Dec. 28	Santa Clara or Detroit Mercy	
Jan. 4	@ Vanderbilt	7:30
Jan. 8	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Jan. 11	Syracuse (CBS)	2:00
Jan. 15	Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 18	@ Florida	6:00
Jan. 22	South Carolina (JP)	7:00
Jan. 25	LSU	7:00
Jan. 28	@ Auburn (ESPN)	8:30
Feb. 1	@ Mississippi State (JP)	12:00
Feb. 5	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 8	@ Tennessee (JP)	3:00
Feb. 12	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 15	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 19	Kentucky (JP)	7:00
Feb. 22	Auburn (SS)	4:00
Feb. 26	@ Arkansas (JP)	7:00
March 1	Mississippi State	7:00
March 6-	SEC Tournament	
March 9	@ Memphis	

*Alabama-VCU will tipoff 30 minutes after completion of Auburn-Murray State game, which begins at 11:30 a.m. or noon.

Times are central

JP-Jefferson Pilot

SS-SportsSouth

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational @ Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational
Feb. 1	@ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic @ Lexington
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships @ Ginesville, Fla.
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships
March 1	@ Atlanta
March 7-8	NCAA Championships @ Indianapolis, Ind.

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 14	Uralmash (Exh.)	5:15
	Hall of Fame Classic @ Stanford, Calif.	
Nov. 17	Stanford (ESPN)	12:00
Nov. 21	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	7:00
	San Juan Shootout, SanJuan, Puerto Rico	
Nov. 28	Arizona State	8:00
Nov. 29	Puerto Rico-Piedras	8:00
Dec. 1	Finals	
	Sheraton Capstone Inn Classic	
Dec. 6	Jackson State	8:00
Dec. 7	Lynn or Northwester State	
	Holiday Beach Classic @ Conray, S.C.	
Dec. 18	Akron	5:00
Dec. 19	Penn State or Furman	8:00
Dec. 20	Finals	
	Miami Holiday Classic @ Coral Gables	
Dec. 27	Grambling State	5:00
Dec. 29	Miami or Butler	

Times are central

SS-SportsSouth

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	Meet The Team (Exh.)	7:00
Jan. 11	@ Penn State	6:00
Jan. 18	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 24	@ Florida	6:00
Feb. 1	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 7	Kentucky	7:00
Feb. 14	@ North Carolina State, New Hampshire, Kent	6:00
Feb. 28	@ Georgia	7:00
March 8	Michigan State, West Virginia, SE Missouri State	7:00
March 15	@ Auburn, Towson State	7:30
March 22	SEC Championships @ Athens, Ga.	
April 5	NCAA Regionals @ Ann Arbor, Mich.	
April 17-	NCAA Championships @ Gainesville, Fla.	
April 19		

Times are central

Men's Swimming & Diving

Date/	Opponent	Time/
UA		Opp.
75	@ Northeast Louisiana	34
87	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	22
129	Florida	114
Nov. 1	@ LSU	3:00
Nov. 8-10	@ Illinois Invitational	
Dec. 5-10	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 5	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 25	@ North Carolina State	11:00
Jan. 26	@ South Carolina	11:00
Feb. 7	Auburn	6:00
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	
March 7	Tennessee	4:00
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
Mar. 13-15	NCAA Zone Diving @ Auburn	
March 27-	NCAA Championships	
March 29	@ Minneapolis, Minn.	

Times are central

Women's Swimming & Diving

Date/	Opponent	Time/
UA		Opp.
84	@ Northeast Louisiana	23
82	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	27
113	Florida	130
Nov. 1	@ LSU	3:00
Nov. 8	Dual Meet Extravaganza	
Nov. 10	@ Champaign, Ill.	
Dec. 5-10	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 5	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 25	@ North Carolina State	11:00
Jan. 26	@ South Carolina	11:00
Jan. 26	Arkansas @ South Carolina	
Feb. 8	Auburn	11:00
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	
March 7	Tennessee	4:00
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
March 13-	NCAA Zone Diving	
March 15	@ Auburn	
March 20-	NCAA Championships	
March 22	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Times are central

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational @ Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational
Feb. 1	@ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic @ Lexington
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships @ Ginesville, Fla.
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships
March 1	@ Atlanta
March 7-8	NCAA Championships @ Indianapolis, Ind.

1996 Alabama Football Opponents' Schedules

Team	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
BOWLING GREEN Falcons Bowling Green, Ohio	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 7-21		Temple 20-16	@ Miami (Ohio) 14-10	Central Michigan 31-27	@ Toledo 16-24	Kent 31-24	Ball State 11-16	@ Ohio 0-38	@ Altron	Western Michigan	@ Central Florida		
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss.	@ Georgia 11-7	Utah State 31-24	Southwest Louisiana 52-27	@ Louisville 24-7		Oct. 10 @ East Carolina 28-7	Memphis 16-0	@ Tulane 31-28	Cincinnati	@ Houston	Florida State	@ Florida State		
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.	Sept. 5 Notre Dame 7-14	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 26-36	Ole Miss 9-20		@ LSU 0-35	@ North Texas 19-7	@ Georgia 2-13	South Carolina 0-27	Alabama-Birmingham	Florida	@ Kentucky		Tennessee	
ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark.	SMU 10-23	ALABAMA (Little Rock) 7-17		Northeast Louisiana (Little Rock) 38-21	Louisiana Tech 7-42	@ South Carolina 17-23	@ Auburn	Ole Miss	@ Tennessee	@ Mississippi State	@ Little Rock	LSU		
KENTUCKY Wildcats Lexington, Ky.	Louisville 14-38	@ Cincinnati 3-24		Indiana 3-0	@ Florida 0-65	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 7-35	@ LSU 14-41	Georgia 24-17	Mississippi State	Vanderbilt	@ Tennessee			
NORTH CAROLINA STATE Wolfpack Raleigh, N.C.		Georgia Tech 16-28		Sept. 19 Florida State 17-51	@ Purdue 21-42	@ Maryland 34-8	ALABAMA (Birmingham) 19-24	@ Virginia 14-62	@ North Carolina	Duke	@ Clemson	Wake Forest	@ East Carolina (Charlotte)	
OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss.	Idaho State 38-14	VMI (Jackson) 31-7	Auburn 28-45	@ Vanderbilt 20-9	Oct. 3 Tennessee (Memphis) 3-41	@ Ole Miss (Memphis) 41-3	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 0-37	Arkansas State 38-21	@ Arkansas	LSU	@ Georgia		Mississippi State	
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.	Las Vegas-Nevada 62-3	UCLA 35-20		Florida 29-35	Oct. 3 New Mexico State 63-7	@ Ole Miss (Memphis) 29-17	ALABAMA (Knoxville) 20-13	@ South Carolina	Memphis	Arkansas	Kentucky		@ Vanderbilt	
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.	Houston 35-34		@ Auburn 19-15	New Mexico State 63-7	Vanderbilt 35-0	@ Florida 13-56	Kentucky 41-14	Mississippi State 28-20	@ LSU	ALABAMA (Baton Rouge) 63-0 CST (ESPN)	Ole Miss	Tulane	@ Arkansas	@ Arkansas (Little Rock)
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.	@ Memphis 31-10		Louisiana Tech 23-38		@ South Carolina 14-10	Georgia 19-38	Auburn 15-49	20-28	@ LSU	ALABAMA (Starkville) 11-30 CST (ESPN)	Northeast Louisiana	@ Kentucky		
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.	Alabama-Birmingham 29-0	Fresno State 62-0	@ Ole Miss 45-28	LSU 15-19	South Carolina 28-24	@ Mississippi State 49-15	@ Florida 10-51	Arkansas	Northeast Louisiana	Georgia			@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 6-30 CST (ESPN)	



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861/16:16 Kirk McNair: kick look too good II

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866/16:18 Kirk McNair: If I think it will be

867/16:19 Kirk McNair: he is behind him and JJ

868/16:19 Kirk McNair: worried as long as you had

869/16:19 Bama in TN: entered

870/16:19 Stuart: did Freddie

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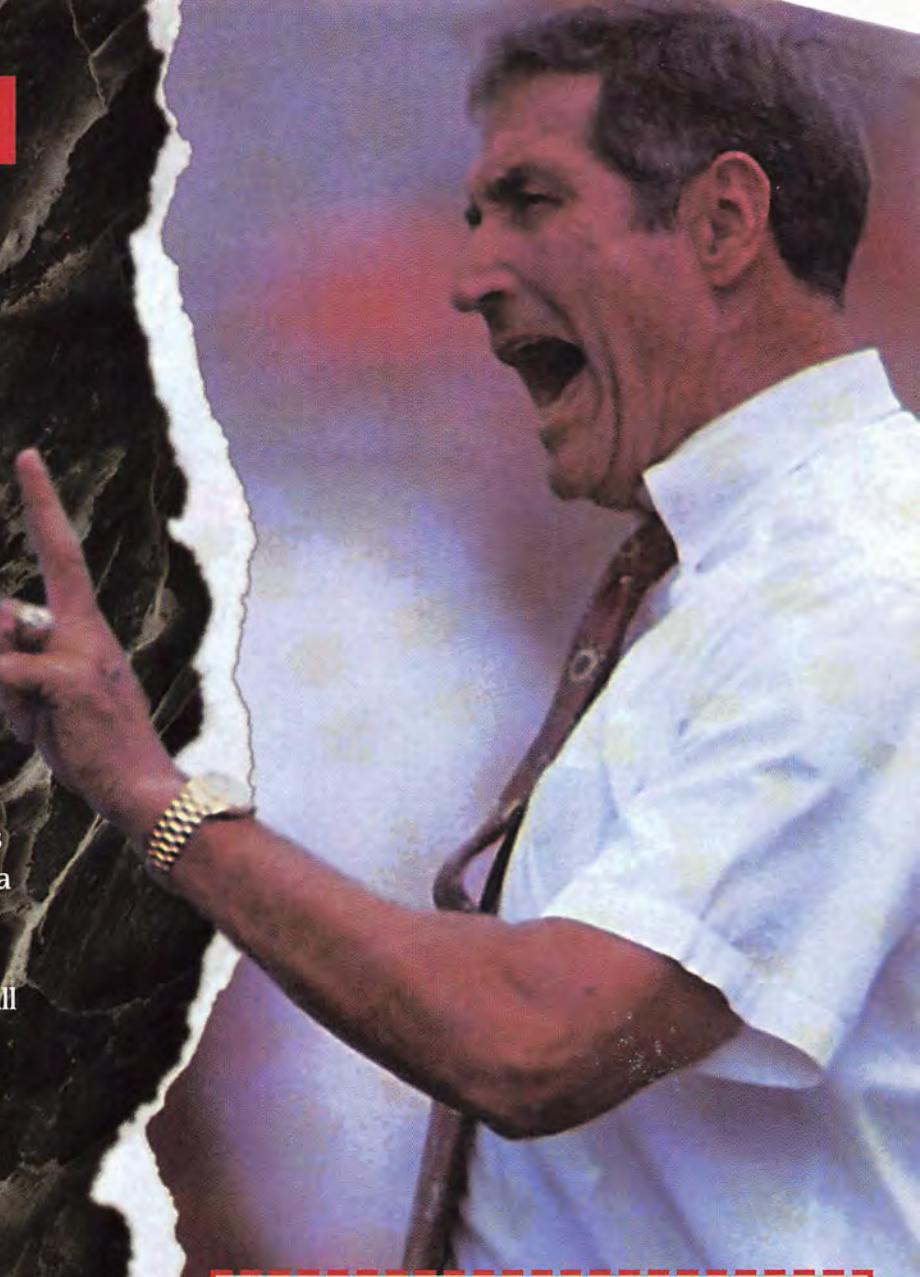
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